

Friday, November 20, 1994

Scientists discover Element 110

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Italian budget set to pass

ROME (R) — Italy's unpopular 1995 budget was set to complete its rocky ride through parliament's lower house on schedule this weekend, but tensions remained high within Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's coalition on Saturday. A parliamentary session had to be halted for 10 minutes on Friday night after rightist National Alliance deputies and their nominal allies from the federalist Northern League almost came to blows. The National Alliance, the Northern League and Mr. Berlusconi's Forza Italia are the three main coalition parties. Deputies from the two sides threw paper missiles and coins at each other after the League joined forces with the opposition to vote down a National Alliance budget amendment which aimed to increase funding for groups representing Italians living abroad. Leading politicians from the two parties had earlier traded insults with National Alliance leader Gianfranco Fini accusing the League of behaving like "goats." Luigi Rossi, League spokesman in the chamber of deputies (lower house), responded by branding the National Alliance "fascist pigs."

AMMAN SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1994, JUMADA ALTHANIA 16, 1415

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Downed Serb plane crashes into apartment

ZAGREB (AFP) — A Croatian Serb plane crashed into an apartment block Saturday after being shot down on a bombing run over Cazin in the north of the Bihac pocket in northwestern Bosnia, a U.N. military observer told AFP. At least nine people were killed in the bombing raid, the source said. Five storeys of the building where it crashed were also in flames, the source added. The source named the dead pilot as Novic Boro, 30, saying the body was badly smashed up by the impact. The plane had been bombing mainly Muslim Bosnian government positions, U.N. officials said here. A U.N. Protection Force spokesman said they did not know if the plane was hit by Bosnian fire but said it was one of two that flew lower over the town, in the north of the government-held Bihac enclave, bombing a "very populated" region. The number of casualties from the air raid, launched on Cazin and the U.N.-protected area of Bihac town at around 3:50 p.m. (1450 GMT), could be substantial, they noted.

Palestinians erupt in anger after bloody clashes in Gaza

Israeli troops kill 3 as Arafat and Hamas leaders seek means to avert civil war and restore calm

Combined agency dispatches

RAGED PALESTINIANS stormed an Israeli checkpoint, clashed with troops and taunted their own police as anger swept the Strip and West Bank after the killing of 13 people in the previous day. Two more Palestinians died overnight. Muslim fundamentalists led their fury at Palestinian Authority (PNA) leader Yasser Arafat but said Israel would pay for Gaza bloodshed, as the PNA took steps to defuse the situation. Israeli troops, meanwhile, killed at least four Palestinians as they fired at Arafat protesters in the Gaza Strip and West Bank. In Gaza City, around 2,000 fundamentalists took to the streets, shouting death threats and insults against Arafat. Arafat's destiny is "in the hands of God," they said, in a reference to the Egyptian President who was gunned down by Islamic militants in 1981. Israeli police stuck to their guns and stayed off the streets. Protesters carrying a huge banner ripped up portraits of Arafat and called him a "traitor" and a "servant" to the occupation army and settlers.

But the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas vowed to take revenge against Israelis, rather than the police whom it dismissed as agents of the Israeli army. In a statement faxed to news agencies, Hamas called on its fighters and "all militants of the different Palestinian factions" to "strike at the occupation army and settlers."

It would be retaliation for the "massacre perpetrated by the occupation army, through its agents." In an effort to ease the tension after the unprecedented violence, the PNA launched a public inquiry and released 50 Islamic militants on Saturday.

The authority also said it would compensate the families of those killed in Friday's clashes as well as Palestinians who had property damaged. "I hope this will help improve the atmosphere," said Nabil Shaath, the Palestinian minister of international cooperation after the authority's weekly meeting. He said a judicial committee made up of three judges as well as a fact-finding committee "from different political views" would investigate how the violence erupted.

Behind the scenes, attempts were underway to bring Hamas and the PNA together for mediation — without immediate success. One Hamas leader, Mahmoud Al Zahar, said that his group would impose conditions on its participation in the fact-finding committee investigating the clashes. Dr. Zahar said Hamas had sent its own proposals to Mr. Arafat, who he charged was "personally responsible" for the Palestinian deaths.

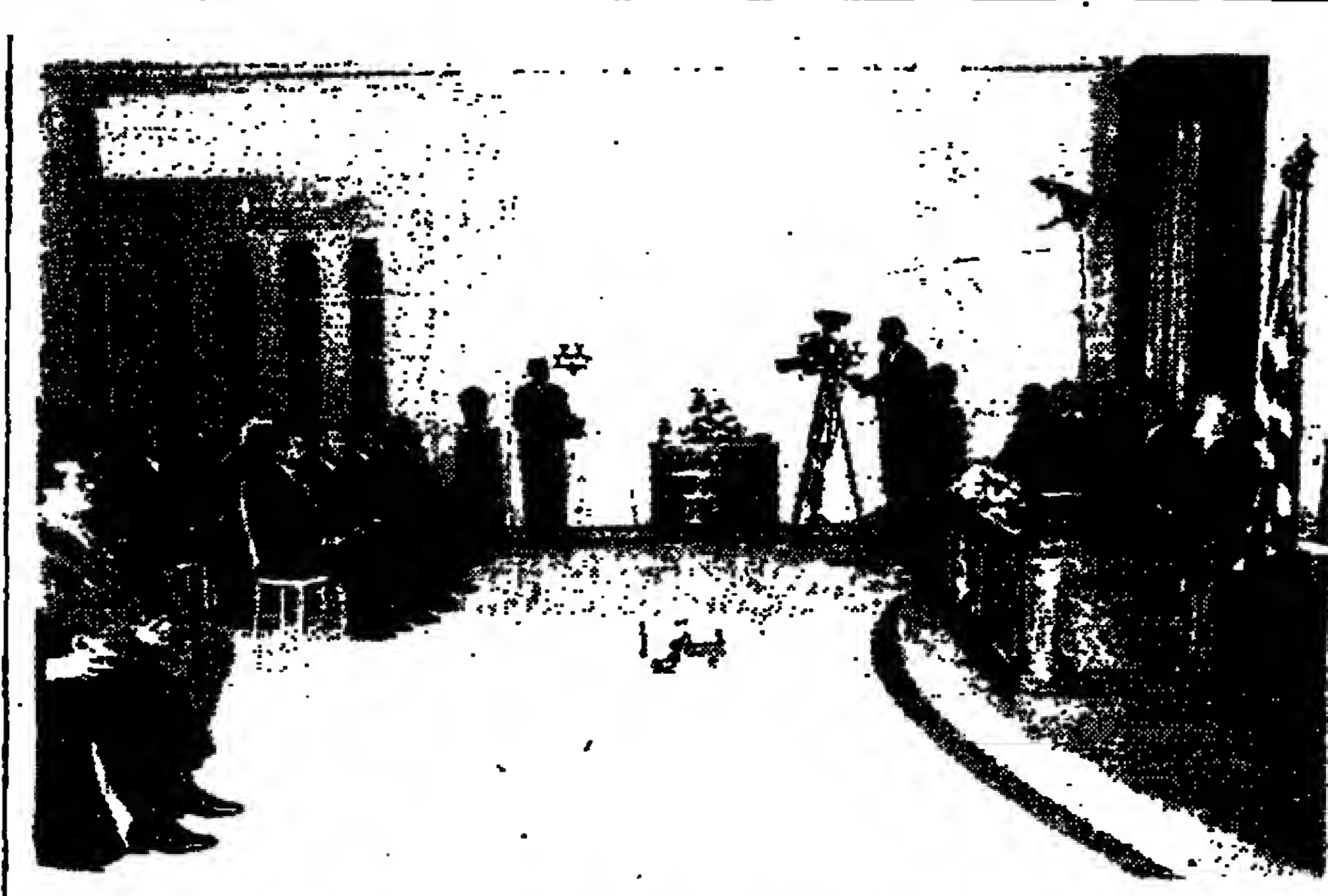


A Palestinian youth kicks a tear-gas grenade during heavy clashes that erupted in East Jerusalem on Saturday (AFP photo)

"We are looking for the establishment of a neutral committee to investigate within a short time, a fixed date," he said. The committee members would have to be "acceptable to both sides and everybody should respond to its decision."

An Israeli Arab deputy, Abdul Wahab Darawseh, said Mr. Arafat had agreed in principle to meet Hamas leaders and issue a joint appeal for calm to Palestinians. Israeli troops shot dead three Palestinians in separate clashes with stone-throwing demonstrators, hospital officials said.

In the West Bank town of (Continued on page 12)



His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday meets with leaders of eight political parties (Petra)

Jordan seeks to set democratic model, King tells political parties

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein said Saturday that Jordan seeks to set an example to others in the Arab World in exercising democracy and political pluralism and in respecting human rights. "Jordan is determined to deal with all matters in order to safeguard these principles and practices so that citizens become reassured about the present and the future and so that Jordan can confront and overcome all challenges and dangers," King Hussein said at a meeting held at the Royal Court with secretary-general and representatives of eight Jordanian political parties. "We are determined to achieve a new renaissance for this nation that would outweigh the suffering of the Arab people in the absence of these principles which will reassert and uphold and safeguard," King Hussein said. "Ours is a nation that has always sought moderation, responding to the call of logic and intellect and acting from

past experiences and hardships and challenges over long years," the King said. Referring to the Middle East peace process, the King said Jordan had always respected the wishes and interests of the Arab brothers who opted to follow their own paths. "In Jordan, we have chosen ours, backed in our endeavours by the majority of people who will work to serve the future generations," the King said. Urging the heads of the parties to pursue the path of cooperation, the King said he would always welcome parties' views on different topics. The King said that he took pride in belonging to the Arab Nation and he was determined to help the Jordanian people to fulfill their aspirations. Talal Ramahi, secretary general of the Unionists Party, delivered an address on behalf of his colleagues pledging to work under the King's wise leadership. Mr. Ramahi said that the

political parties continue to support the King's drive to enhance the principles of political pluralism, democracy and human rights. Referring to the Jordan-Israel peace treaty, Mr. Ramahi said that the Jordanian people were united behind their leadership and hoping to deal with the coming stage with full confidence under King Hussein's guidance. Saying that the coming stage posed various challenges, Mr. Ramahi said that the political parties pledge to support all King Hussein's endeavours in service of the homeland. The political parties represented at the meeting were: Al Ahd, Progress and Justice, Al Yakaza, Al Mustaqbal, Al Jamaher, the Unionists, Wa'd, and the Liberals. Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Zaid Ben Shaker, the King's Military Secretary Prince Talal Ben Mohammad and the King's advisers attended the meeting.

Pope states hopes for Jerusalem

AMMAN (AP) — Pope Paul II, receiving his first ambassador to Holy See, on Saturday reiterated the Vatican's hopes for Jerusalem's future. A Vatican spokesman said the Pope's visit to the city in March, shortly after the end of the Gulf war, was part of his drive to bring peace to the Middle East. Pope has repeatedly said his concern for the future of the city, and that issue will be discussed with later in the peace talks that in 1991. "That part of the city considered sacred," Pope John Paul II said, "is a place of great importance for the preservation of the peace in the world — by places, the life of communities, their religious quarters, and by free access for all." Pope John Paul II, the diplomat, during a bilateral presentation day. Pope acknowledged difficulties of reaching Jerusalem because the city constitutes a heritage for Jews, Muslims and Christians. "The city is very old and its very stones and walls are both peace and a symbol of differences," he said. Pope made no direct reference to the bloodshed involving Muslim and Palestinian in the Gaza Strip. Vatican's newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano, expressed worry for the "repercussions" on negotiations.

Jordan decries bloodshed, urges Palestinians to unite

U.S., Egypt see need for aid; opponents of peace assail Arafat for 'massacre'

Combined agency dispatches

JORDAN ON Saturday condemned the bloodshed and killings Friday in the Gaza Strip in clashes between the Palestinian National Authority and Israeli forces. A government spokesman, quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the Jordanian government was following up the situation in Gaza with "extreme concern." The spokesman voiced "dismay, pain and sadness over the loss of lives." "It expresses its deep sorrow and grief over the blood that was shed... especially in these delicate and complicated circumstances which the Palestinian territories are passing through," said the spokesman. The spokesman offered condolences to the Palestinian people in general, and families of those killed in particular, wished speedy recovery to the wounded and urged Palestinians in the self-rule area to unify their ranks.

Eight Jordanian parties opposing the Middle East peace process issued a statement condemning Friday's incidents in Gaza. "The Jordanian parties opposing the surrender and normalisation agreements denounce the massacre committed by the police forces of (the Palestinian National) Authority in Gaza Strip Friday Nov. 18, 1994," said the statement, a copy of which was faxed to the Jordan Times. The parties said "the massacre" was a result of the Palestinian authority's commitments to the American administration and the Israeli government to implement the Oslo-Cairo agreements. The opposition eight said they consider "this criminal behaviour as part of the criminal campaign aiming to liquidate the Palestinian national resistance struggling for freedom and independence." The parties called on the Palestinian people to avoid

in-fighting and to unify their ranks in resisting the Israeli occupation and those serving it. They also demanded the setting up of a panel to investigate Friday's violence. The U.S. State Department said the bloody clashes between Palestinian police and Muslim hardliners in the Gaza Strip are a warning that funds must quickly be funneled to the newly autonomous area. Confrontations that left 15 dead and more than 200 wounded sent "a warning signal that more must be done to bring to the Palestinian people concrete benefits of peace," said State Department spokesman David Johnson. Mr. Johnson urged donor nations to fulfill their obligations. Some have complained about the lack of information available about how funds are used. "The Palestine Liberation (Continued on page 12)

PNA rejects Israeli offer

NICOSIA (Agencies) — The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) on Saturday rejected an Israeli offer to help deal with Islamic militants, after the Gaza clashes which left 15 people dead and 200 wounded. "This is ruled out. We did not turn to the Israelis," Jibril Rajjub, Palestinian security chief for the Jericho self-rule enclave, told the Arabic service of Radio Monte Carlo monitored in Cyprus. He also rejected another offer, again from Israeli Housing Minister Benyamin Ben Eliezer, to allow Palestinian reinforcements into the autonomous Gaza Strip from Arab countries. "We do not need such forces. We are not at war against our people, this will definitely not happen," he said. Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said he hoped the PNA's forces would succeed to get the militants under control, but that Israel would not interfere. "Within every people, there is room for different opinions. There is no room for rival authorities," Mr. Peres told Israel Radio. "That's a real disaster." Israeli Environment Minister Yossi Sarid said his country did not want to see fighting between Palestinians, and blamed Muslim fundamentalists for the unprecedented clashes in Gaza. "We are deeply saddened by the bloodshed and acts of violence. Israel has no interest in seeing its Palestinian neighbours plunge into internal conflict," Mr. Sarid told Israel Television. Mr. Sarid offered the Israeli government's "sympathy" to the families of victims. Fundamentalists opposed to the autonomy accord were responsible for the violence, (Continued on page 12)

Majali begins visit to Qatar seeking to consolidate relations

DOHA (Agencies) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali on Saturday arrived in Doha on an official visit to Qatar at an invitation by Qatari Crown Prince and Defence Minister Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani. Dr. Majali, who is accompanied on the visit by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan, will meet with senior Qatari officials for talks on means of enhancing bilateral relations, regional and international developments as well as the latest developments in the Middle East peace process, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. Dr. Majali was received at Doha airport by Sheikh Hamad, several Qatari royal court officials, speaker of the Qatari Shura assembly, several ministers and the Jordanian ambassador to Qatar. Dr. Majali was given a red carpet reception with full honours. Dr. Majali is to meet Qatari Emir Sheikh Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani and



Abdul Salam Majali senior officials.

solid relations based on mutual respect," said Dr. Anani in remarks to the press. He stressed the need "for Arabs to unite in solidarity in the face of the challenges inherent in the Arab-Israeli peace era." Jordan's relations with Qatar, a GCC member, have greatly improved over the past two years. But uneasiness has persisted with other Gulf states — except for Oman which maintained good relations with the Kingdom — because of Jordan's perceived pro-Iraqi stance during the Gulf crisis which followed Baghdad's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait. His Majesty King Hussein visited Doha on March 23, and high-ranking Qatari officials have travelled to Amman several times over the past two years. It was Dr. Majali's first visit to an Arab Gulf state since Jordan and Israel signed a peace treaty on Oct. 26 ending a 46-year state of war and starting full normalisation. "We want to build new

Hospitals deny cholera outbreak in Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Hospitals on Saturday denied a report that two Palestinian children in Arab East Jerusalem had contracted cholera, three weeks after the disease first appeared in the autonomous Gaza Strip. Bikur Holim hospital said the report from hospital officials was a mistake and that the children were suffering from intestinal problems. The officials had said the two Palestinians were taken to Bikur Holim in Jerusalem's western sector. The most seriously ill child was later transferred.

On the occasion of King Hussein's birthday & the signing of the peace agreement between Jordan & Israel

SOON TO BE OPENED: WADI AL SALAM TRAVEL AND TOURISM Air flight bookings to all countries in the world, tourist picnics inside Jordan and outside, hotel bookings, Al OMRA travelling arrangements.

AL SHMEISANI Abdul Hamid Sharaf Street, Tareq Centre building, third floor, office no. 17.



Qaboos calls for interpretation of Islam to conform to times

MUSCAT (AP) — Sultan Qaboos has condemned Islamic fundamentalism, which he attributed to "stagnation" of the laws of the 7th century faith, and called for fresh interpretations of these laws to suit modern-day life.

In a televised address on the Sultanate's national day, Sultan Qaboos urged his people to close the door to religious fanaticism and the violence it has spawned.

Sultan Qaboos, who has ruled for 24 years, called on Oman's two million people to ensure that "alien ideas, masquerading as beneficial promises" do not jeopardise Oman's security and stability.

His call for new interpretation of Islamic principles, or Ijtihad, is a thorny one and was an apparent attempt to counter Muslim extremists who have become active in this country on the southeastern tip of the Arabian Peninsula.

Last week, an unspecified number of some 200 Omani Muslim fundamentalists rounded up earlier in the year were sentenced to death on charges of conspiracy to rouse sedition, Sultan Qaboos commuted the sentences.

Officially, few details of the case have emerged. But diplomats say the men were part of the Islamic fundamentalist tide sweeping

several Arab countries, seeking to establish Islamic states.

Sultan Qaboos declared that extremism, fanaticism and factionalism were "hateful poisonous plants in the soil of our country which will not be allowed to flourish."

"Obstinacy in religious understanding leads to backwardness in Muslims, the prevalence of violence and intolerance," he said.

"This is far removed from Islam, which rejects exaggeration and bigotry, because it is the religion of liberality."

Fundamentalists insist on segregating the sexes and that women must be veiled from head to toe, while rejecting modern banking systems, because they provide interest which is considered usury.

But, Sultan Qaboos said, the principles and laws of Islam were imparted by God through the Koran without expressing them in detail. Interpreting them, he said, "might differ from place to place."

"He did so to enable us to interpret the law of Islam according to its basic principles and the requirements of life," the Sultan noted.

He stressed that when Islam spread after the faith was founded by the Prophet Muhammad, new questions arose requiring Islamic answers and people then "resorted to interpretation in an attempt to find suitable answers."

These and proved that Islamic law was capable of dealing with any situation. But "unfortunately the backwardness of Muslims in recent times has rendered them incapable of making use of their inheritance," Sultan Qaboos said.

"It's really sad that this stagnation resulted in a weakness of the Muslim Nation, which in recent years, has brought about fanaticism based on a lack of knowledge about the correct facts of their religion," he said.

"This was exploited by some to perpetrate violence and propagate cases of difference that led to discord and hatred."

He noted: "In order that Muslims should not remain backward, while others advance, they are required by the law of Islam to... renew and revise their thinking so they can apply the right solutions to modern problems that face the Islamic community."

Sultan Qaboos also moved to streamline Islamic education in Oman and announced the establishment of a new college of Islamic jurisprudence and law in Muscat, the capital, and a higher institution for senior Muslim theologians.



MAJALI IN DOHA: Prime Minister Abdul Qatari Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Ben Salan Majali, who began a visit to Qatar on Saturday, is received upon arrival in Doha by one (Petra photo)

International journalists assail Palestinian police behaviour

By Cathy King
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An international organisation that seeks to protect journalists is questioning Palestinian police riot control methods and open fire regulations following the shooting of journalists in Gaza on Friday.

Associated Press photographer Adel Hanna, Reuters photographer Ahmad Jadhalla and Reuters TV cameraman Shamseddin Oudeh, all of them Palestinian, were shot and injured during the shooting of journalists in Gaza on Friday.

In a letter sent to Palestinian National Authority (PNA) Chairman Yasser Arafat, the New York based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) expressed its dismay that three journalists were shot and injured during confrontations between Palestinian police and Islamic militants.

The CPJ called for an "independent investigation of these shootings" and urged the PNA to reevaluate police riot control methods.

Violent clashes and street fighting erupted following Friday prayers in Gaza, leaving 13 dead and more than 200 wounded when Palestinian police fired on stone-throwing demonstrators accusing the PNA of serving Israeli interests. Two others died overnight.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Benvenisti accuses Olmert of provoking tension

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — A Jerusalem councillor announced his resignation Friday, accusing the Israeli right-wing mayor, Ehud Olmert, of stirring up tension between Jews and Arabs in the Holy City.

Meron Benvenisti, a Labour Party councillor, told Olmert in a letter published Friday "instead of the moderating influence required for your duties, you stir up tension with the Palestinians who make up a third of the city's population."

Mr. Benvenisti, a sociologist, condemned Mr. Olmert for campaigning against Orient House, the Palestinian headquarters in Jerusalem, and for opposing any expansion of the city's Arab districts. "The mayor is caught up in his outdated, ultra-nationalist ideas," Mr. Benvenisti told AFP.

"He does not take any notice of criticism and I have given up any hope of changing anything in the municipality," he added. Mr. Olmert, a right-wing opposition Likud party deputy, was elected to his Jerusalem post a year ago. He has since taken a hardline stance on the closure of Orient House and against a visit to Jerusalem by Yasser Arafat. Mr. Benvenisti, who was deputy mayor 15 years ago, proposed the creation of separate municipal authorities for Jewish and Arab districts but his plan was dropped. He has written a series of books and articles on Jerusalem.

Eritrean refugees begin to return home

GENEVA (AFP) — The office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said Friday it had begun the long process of repatriating refugees from Eritrea currently living in Sudan. UNHCR spokeswoman Ruth Marshall said a third of the 420,000 refugees concerned would be resettled by mid-1995. A first batch of 297 had returned and 1,500 would cross the border each week. The refugees fled the years of fighting which finally ended with Eritrea's independence from Ethiopia in May 1993. The Asmara government had put off any repatriation until now because of economic problems.

Cleric wants Iran divorce law changed

NICOSIA (AP) — The head of Iran's judiciary said Friday that some women being divorced by their husbands were entitled to up to half the wealth accumulated during the marriages. Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi said in a Friday prayers sermon in Tehran that this applied to women who had not initiated the divorce and had conducted themselves properly during their marriages. He said that while around 98 per cent of marriages in Iran were happy, he knew of cases where well-off men had left their wives for younger women. "I know of... couples who have gone through poverty and hardship together and gradually their lot improves... now the man has got a desk job or come into some money, and God forbid, made the acquaintance of a young woman at work or outside, and he wishes to divorce his wife and marry the other woman," Ayatollah Yazdi said. "In such cases, if a man wishes to divorce his wife, the court can, or must, investigate the amount of wealth which they have accumulated during the period... their marriage to the time of divorce, and that, at the discretion of the court, up to half of that wealth should be given unconditionally by the man to the woman, before being able to use his right to divorce her," he said. Iran's divorce law has recently been amended by the expediency council, which makes the final ruling on all legislative issues.

Sudan prepares studies to refute rights claims

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Sudanese authorities are preparing fact-finding studies aimed at refuting reports of torture and other abuses to present to human rights delegations due to visit the country, a news report said Saturday.

Justice Minister Abdul Aziz Shiddo's higher council for human rights called on government agencies to prepare studies on displaced people, refugees, women's rights, homelessness, and amnesty decrees, the daily Al Sudan Al Hadeeth said.

The reports will be prepared ahead of the visits by delegates from Amnesty International and the development aid organisation of African-Pacific-Caribbean and European Union countries.

The studies will also cover what Mr. Shiddo termed earlier "methodical mistakes" in accounts of alleged human rights rapporteur Gaspar Biro and Amnesty.

But the latest operation has so far failed to curb the insurgency, which has already claimed 15,000 lives.

On a recent visit to another city in the region, Sirnak, journalists were constantly surrounded by a dozen policemen.

"We're accompanying you for your own protection," explained one officer, "you never know..."

He insisted nonetheless that 20,000, was calm. The main cause was under tight surveillance by several police vehicles. Still, the streets showed the effects of machine-gun fire from clashes in August 1992.

Anatolia is hushed in face of security

BATMAN (AFP) — The silence in southeastern Turkey, where government forces are battling a Kurdish separatist insurgency, is overwhelming, as residents have learned to respect the dreaded, intimidating presence of plain clothes Turkish policemen.

All, a 40-year-old civil servant and a Kurd, did agree to talk here with two visiting journalists... but only after eyeballing them for 10 minutes to make sure they themselves were not being talked by police.

He said security forces "had silenced everyone." They uproot rural populations and burn villages, charging that "dozens of villages that had been evacuated in the Batman and Sirnak regions."

The Turkish government has strongly denied that its forces have razed communities in their campaign against the PKK.

"The government does not burn down villages," insisted Prime Minister Tansu Ciller late last month.

Kurdish leaders interviewed by AFP reported that the army and the police make no distinction between PKK activists and ordinary citizens, often suspected by authorities of harboring sympathies for the rebels.

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Relief workers keep heads down in Somalia

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Relief workers in Somalia are keeping their heads down in the last 15,000 U.N. troops withdrew from this lawless country on the Horn of Africa.

The aid workers accuse the peacekeepers, who will all be gone by March 31, of doing virtually nothing to protect them.

The U.N. troops are "hunkered down behind barbed wire and concrete, packing their toys, and protecting themselves against marauding bandits," charged Nancy Smith, Somali director of the British agency Oxfam, in an interview this week.

The United Nations counter-charges that the agencies are operating with "missionary zeal" and misleading public opinion.

U.N. Special Representative Victor Ghebho of Ghana said in an interview this week that U.N. troops were still protecting relief convoys, but were limiting their trip to 150 kilometres (90 miles) from Mogadishu so they could return the same day.

In 1992, some 150 international relief agencies were operating in Somalia following the overthrow of dictator Mohammad Siad Barre in January of 1991 and as drought threatened famine amid clan warfare.

Now, about 20 remain, and most are planning to withdraw from the flashpoint of Mogadishu as the last troops go, to base themselves in calmer areas of the country or in Nairobi, the capital of neighbouring Kenya, while they watch what happens.

As they withdraw, meanwhile, their armed employees tend to hold them hostage, demanding huge severance pay, a habit that Ms. Smith denounced as a "feeding frenzy."

She said Oxfam would pull out of the southern port city of Kismayo before Indian U.N. troops withdraw from there at the end of the month.

"We're disposed to remain (in Somalia)," Ms. Smith said, but "not if we need a huge amount of security, and are surrounded by guns. Our (security) costs have to decrease."

Oxfam workers, like all expatriates, travel in Mogadishu only with at least one armed guard in the car and one armed guard in a following vehicle to ward off independent kidnappers who are not controlled by any major faction.

The armed guards are generally paid \$150 per month each, and security costs are often around 10 per cent of an agency's budget, relief workers say.

The agencies depend on supplies now on U.N. planes, flights organised by the European Union, but Ms. Smith pointed out that the U.N. flights would halt at the end of March and that the European flights would not take down if the departure of the U.N. sparked fighting around the airport, as is widely expected.

Karl Weis, heading a joint operation by the German branches of the Roman Catholic and Protestant agencies Caritas and Diakonia, said his staff had been operating in "red areas" for the last two years, but that the U.N. troops "only supply security on their checkpoints and in their compound."

Jean Fabrice Pictet, Somali director of International Action Against Famine, said he received no political or military information from the United Nations to allow him to evaluate dangers to his staff.

He also said reports from U.N. officials on Monday that at least 100 people were feared in flooding in the south of the country was a gross exaggeration, saying the staff in the area reported no deaths.

The floods were a regular occurrence, he said, though little harsher than usual this time.

Mr. Ghebho said meanwhile, in an interview the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) were "misleading opinion."

The U.N. troops had established corridors in the hostile and violent society, he said, and were continuing to escort relief every day to the 150-kilometre limit.

"The NGOs want to escape all the time," he said. "They are notorious for not having programmes ahead of time, and they like to operate in areas where we don't go."

Son's graduation fuels Assad succession rumour

DAMASCUS (AP) — Bashar Assad's graduation as a captain commanding a tank regiment has fueled speculation that his father, President Hafez Al Assad, is grooming his son to succeed him.

Predictions about Bashar as a possible heir apparent began in January following the sudden death of his elder brother Basil in a car accident.

Speculation surrounding the 29-year-old Bashar was reinforced Thursday when he graduated from the military academy in the city of Homs.

Bashar joined the academy shortly after his brother's death, cutting short his training in England as an ophthalmologist to keep close to his bereaved father.

Defence Minister Mustafa Tlas, addressing the graduating cadets, extended a special welcome to Bashar, saying "welcome, a comrade in arms, as a dear brother and the son of our dear father."

At an earlier ceremony following Basil's death, General Tlas had told President Assad that Bashar, "would be a good successor."

"I see in the eyes of your son, Dr. Bashar Assad, the will, determination and ability to raise the banner that Basil had raised," Gen. Tlas told the president.

Although Basil was never officially designated as President Assad's heir apparent, he had been considered a leading candidate to succeed the president or at least assume a prominent position once his father passed from the scene.

Bashar, like Basil, has shown little taste for politics. But although his father never designated him as a successor, there have been increasing signs that he has been groomed for high office.

He is already heading most of the committees his late brother had presided over, mainly those relating to sports activities. He also carries out other special duties assigned to him by his father.

President Assad, 64, in power since a bloodless coup 24 years ago, has shown no signs of relinquishing power for the time being but the succession is still a key issue in Syrian politics.

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:00 Alice Au Pays Des Merveilles
17:30 Un Pour Tous
18:00 Montagne
18:30 Le Vent Des Merveilles
19:00 News in French
19:15 Ushuaia
19:30 McHales Navy
20:00 The Phantom Horsemen
20:30 Quantum Leap
21:10 Sherlock Holmes
22:00 News in English
22:30 Scarlet
23:10 The Upper Hand

PRAYER TIMES
04:43 Fajr
06:04 Sunrise/Duha
11:21 Dhuhur
14:14 Asr
16:39 Maghreb
17:59 Isha

CHURCHES
St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Swetfiah, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Clouds will appear at different altitudes with winds westerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 15 / 27
Deserta 9 / 23
Jordan Valley 14 / 25

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 20, Aqaba 25 Humidity

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

readings: Amman 31 per cent, Aqaba 35 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS
NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Mukhlis Halasa 819220
Dr. Shabaneh Al Izah 753774
Dr. Shalwi Abu Zayed 737962
Dr. Abbas Al Hakim 885446
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637025
Nairoba pharmacy 625672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yaacoub pharmacy 644945
Shimacani pharmacy 637660
Nairoba pharmacy 625672
Najib pharmacy 847632

DRBD:
Dr. Mohammad Khalil 273099
Aqaba pharmacy (—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Farah Al Aqarawi 987722
Khalil pharmacy 985417

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630241
Rescue 630241
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 776111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381

HOSPITALS
RJ Flight Information 06-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 06-53200

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 81813/32
Khalil Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Akil Maternity, J. Amn 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mahas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmashani 6641714
Sinciani Hospital 669111
University Hospital 845945
Al-Musharraf Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdali 66612727
'Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Itafan, Al-Muhajra 77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf 77511126
Anny, Maria 89161/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)905660
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)90990
DRBD:
Prince Basmah Hospital (02)25555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)22275

Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

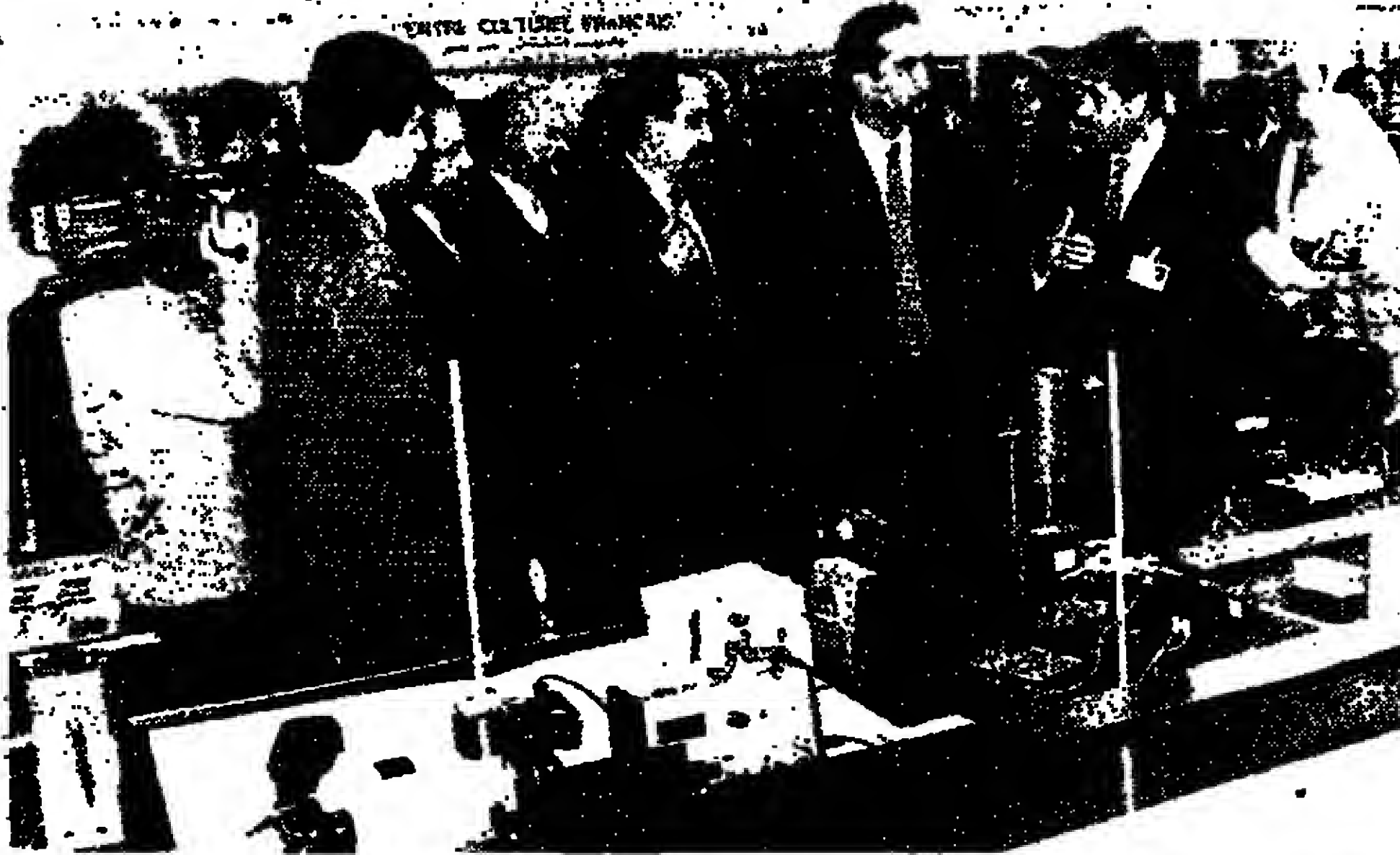
ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
23:00 Bangkok (RJ)
07:45 Aqaba (RJ)
08:35 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
09:00 Beirut (RJ)
09:00 Damascus (RJ)
09:00 Larnaca (RJ)
09:05 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:15 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
12:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
12:00 London (RJ)
12:00 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
12:40 Athens (RJ)
13:00 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
13:00 Vienna (RJ)
13:00 Paris, Brussels (RJ)
13:00 Rome (RJ)
13:00 Frankfurt (RJ)
13:00 Aqaba (RJ)
13:00 Cairo (RJ)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
05:30 Aqaba (RJ)
06:25 Beirut (RJ)
09:00 Aqaba, Frankfurt (RJ)
11:30 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
11:30 Vienna (RJ)
11:30 Rome (RJ)
11:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:30 Athens (RJ)
11:30 Cairo (RJ)
12:00 Damascus (RJ)
12:00 Jeddah (RJ)
12:00 Riyadh (RJ)
12:00 Doha (RJ)
12:00 Aqaba (RJ)
12:00 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
12:00 Damascus (RJ)
12:00 Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)
12:00 Bangkok (RJ)
12:00 Sanaa (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
12:35 Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
14:25 Moscow (SU)
20:05 Cairo (MS)
20:20 Beirut (ME)
22:05 Istanbul (TK)
01:10 Amsterdam (KL)

MARKET PRICES
Upper/lower price in fcs per kg.
Apple 700/500
Banana (Mukammal) 600
Banana (small) 500
Cabbage 120/70
Carrot 300/180
Cauliflower 340/200
Cucumber 300/200
Cucumbers (large) 150/80
Cucumbers (small) 340/200
Eggplant 330/240
Garlic 700/500
Grape Fruit 300/200
Lemon 320/180
Marrow (large) 160/80
Marrow (small) 340/200
Olive (green) 630/450
Onion (green) 500/300
Onion (dry) 620/300
Orange 650/400
Pepper (hot) 650/400
Pepper (sweet) 320/200
Potato 350/200
Spinach 320/200
Tomato 320/200
String beans 620/300

HIAZ RAILWAY
Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday



His Royal Highness Prince Ghazi Ben Muhammad Saturday tours the Middle East International Education Exhibition (Petra photo)

Prince Ghazi inaugurates Mideast education exhibit

AMMAN (J.T.) — Deputising for His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Prince Ghazi Ben Muhammad Saturday inaugurated the first Middle East International Education Exhibition at Rawdat Al Ma'aref Schools and College at Khaldia.

Organised by Liverpool-John Moores University in the United Kingdom and Rawdat Al Ma'aref Schools and College, the four-day exhibition has on display books and publications in several languages, educational aids, laboratory equipment and tapes among other educational tools.

Publications and other literature provided by the Spanish, Italian, French, British and American cultural centres in Amman are also on display.

A spokesman for the school said that Muta and Al-Bayt universities provided samples of their publications for display as well.

Prince Ghazi, who is the King's cultural adviser, toured the different sections of the exhibition.

The opening was attended by Sir Philip Carter of Liverpool-John Moores University, Mohammad Dweik and Basem Barakat of Rawdat Al Ma'aref Schools, a group of invited educationists and heads of educational institutions in the country.

Local tomatoes fail Israeli test

From The Jerusalem Post

Jordan is expected to arrive on Sunday.

The ministry said the shipment, containing 20 tonnes of small and large tomatoes, arrived at the Sheikh Hussein Bridge Thursday after failing to pass the Israeli ministry of agriculture's quality check.

The ministry said a new shipment of tomatoes from Jordan is expected to arrive on Sunday.

The price of tomatoes has reached a new record high despite reports that the public is buying fewer of them, the ministry reported. It said the wholesale price of a kilo of tomatoes reached NIS 10 (\$2.5).

Teams unearth Stone Age homes, towers in eastern Amman area

AMMAN (Petra) — An archaeological survey of areas in eastern Amman districts has uncovered homes and towers built along hills and wadis during the Stone Age circa 7,000 B.C., according to Mohammad Wahib, head of the excavation team from the Department of Antiquities which conducted the two-month survey.

Dr. Wahib said that the survey was part of an overall programme to canvas all of the Greater Amman regions for archaeological sites with a view to protecting them.

"We started with the eastern part of Amman because there have been very active construction operations there," he said, "and the department plans to ensure that archaeological sites are not tampered with or lost to construction works."

Adding that the department was currently documenting the newly discovered sites, Dr. Wahib said that the finds clearly indicated that human settlements existed in the region since the Stone, Bronze, Iron, Roman and Islamic eras.

Dr. Wahib praised the close cooperation with Amman Municipality in discovering tens of ancient sites in the eastern parts of Amman, noting that the agreement was reached with the municipality on special precautions to be taken to safeguard these sites during construction operations.

He said that the finds would enrich Amman's historical past and offer scholars and researchers a priceless cache in their work.

Based on the new discoveries, Dr. Wahib said the department concluded that human settlement started in eastern Amman district before extending westwards.

Qatar determined to help reestablish Arab solidarity — visiting minister

King receives Qatari envoy, invitation from emir

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday received at the Royal Court Qatari Minister of Information and Culture Hamad Ben Abdul Aziz Al Kuwari, who conveyed to him the greetings of the emir of Qatar, Sheikh Khalifah Ben Hamad Al Thani and Qatari Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifah Al Thani. Dr. Kuwari congratulated King Hussein on the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty and commended the King's pan-Arab stands on the Middle East peace process. Discussion at the meeting centred on Jordanian-Qatari relations in information and cultural fields and means of enhancing them.

The visiting minister handed the King an invitation by Sheikh Khalifah to visit Qatar. The meeting was attended by Minister of Information Jawad Al Anani.

At a meeting with Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Sa'd Hayel Srouf, Kuwari stressed that Qatar was determined to do all in its power to reestablish solidarity among Arab countries.

Dr. Kuwari said that divisions in the Arab World, as well as the continued suffering of the Iraqi people as a result of the U.N. sanctions on their country, were hampering the Arab Nation. He said Qatar looks to the end of such suffering and the termination of the embargo on Iraq.

Referring to Jordanian-Qatari relations, Dr. Kuwari said that they were strong and continually progressing in all fields. He said the Qatari emir and the emirate's senior officials are intent on bolstering bilateral cooperation in all domains.

Dr. Kuwari said Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali's visit to Qatar which started Saturday was expected to be successful and would contribute to enhancing bilateral ties, adding that His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's earlier visit to Doha was also successful and paved the way for closer brotherly cooperation in different areas.

Dr. Kuwari, who started a visit to Jordan Thursday, said he hoped that the Jordanian Parliament and the Qatari Shura council would initiate close cooperation and exchange expertise.

Referring to the Middle East peace process, Dr. Kuwari said Qatar has welcomed the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty and hopes that peace treaties would soon be concluded on all the other tracks.

For his part, Mr. Srouf said Jordan was keen on maintaining strong relations with the other Arab states and shared the Qatari hopes of a quick end to the sanctions on



His Majesty King Hussein Saturday receives at the Royal Court Qatari Minister of Information and Culture Hamad Abdul Aziz Al Kuwari (Petra photo)

the Iraqi people.

Mr. Srouf paid tribute to Qatar for its support to Jordan, adding that Qatar has always followed a moderate policy under different circumstances.

Dr. Kuwari Saturday also met with Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi and discussed means of reestablishing solidarity among Arab states.

Earlier Saturday, Dr. Kuwari held talks with Information Minister Jawad Anani on cooperation between Qatar and Jordan in media affairs.

The two sides agreed to set up a draft committee to draw up an executive protocol for the implementation of a 1981 bilateral accord on cooperation in information fields.

Dr. Kuwari said that his visit aims at further enhancing bilateral cooperation in information and cultural affairs, adding that Qatar appreciates Jordanian cadres' contributions to the development of the emirate's information services over the years.

Dr. Anani told a press gathering after the talks that the two sides discussed the exchange of information materials and augmenting cooperation between the national news agencies in both countries based on an agreement signed between the two agencies in 1990.

According to Dr. Anani the two sides reached an initial agreement on joint production of radio and television programmes.

Dr. Kuwari described his meetings with Jordanian officials as fruitful and reflecting the strong relations between the two countries.

Israeli tourists flock to Jordan while Jordanians wait for Israeli visas

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Israeli tourists are flocking to Jordan in hundreds every day under visas and permissions granted by the Interior Ministry in Amman, but the Israeli government has yet to issue the first visa for Jordanian tour groups, travel agents and potential tourists said Saturday.

While the Jordanian authorities issue permits for Israeli tourists to enter the Kingdom through the southern and northern crossings in about six days after they receive the applications, Israel appears to be adopting a complicated procedure involving thorough security screening, they said.

The Israeli permission could take between 10 and 15 days, said an official of Apollo Tours in Amman.

Although the Jordanian procedures also involve security screening, the process is expedited in Jordan while the Israelis appear to be taking their own time, according to travel agents.

Israeli tourists started coming in on Nov. 12, two days after His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin exchanged the documents of ratification of the Oct. 26 Jordan-Israel peace treaty.

However, until Saturday, no Jordanian tour group is

known have crossed into Israel, travel agents said.

Individual cases of businessmen wishing to visit Israel are treated differently since their applications to the Israeli authorities are also followed up by their contacts in Israel and the occupied territories.

Dozens of Jordanian businessmen have already visited the Jewish state, and most of them have also secured semi-permanent residence status there.

But the first group of Jordanian tourists is still awaiting permission to enter Israel.

Pending the opening of Israeli and Jordanian diplomatic missions in Amman and Tel Aviv respectively in the second week of December — a formal announcement of establishing diplomatic relations is expected on Nov. 27 — travel agents are handling visa applications from tourists from both sides.

The applications are forwarded to the concerned authorities on the two sides, and permissions are usually sent to the border crossing and available to travellers upon entry.

"Security measures and restrictions imposed by Israel are delaying the issuance of visas to Jordanians, quite contrary to what is happening to Israelis wishing to come to Jordan," Daoud Qutob of Diana Tours said.

"We call upon Israeli authorities to speed up the issuance of visas to our tourists and we hope our call will meet with a positive response," Mr. Qutob was quoted as saying by the Associated Press.

Global Tours and Travel Company, which says it plans to organise weekly tour packages to Israel, hopes to send the first group of 40 Jordanian tourists to Israel on Dec. 12, an official of the company said.

Global Tours is among several Jordanian travel agencies which have prepared tour packages to Israel and are advertising in the local press. However, it is unlikely that the number of Jordanians visiting Israel will be anywhere near the flow in the opposite directions.

A survey conducted by the Institute of Spatial Analysis has found that some 600,000 Israelis are interested in visiting Jordan this year and almost half probably will, the Jerusalem Post reported.

The survey conducted by the institute's Geographical Research Centre, was conducted among a selected sample of 527 adult Israeli Jews, the Post said.

According to its finding, about 237,000 Israelis will probably visit Jordan during the coming year, about the same number that visited Turkey last year.

The survey also found that almost half of the 5.5 million Israeli population has no interest in visiting Jordan. Of these, 23 per cent said they were afraid or felt insecure, while 17 per cent said they were uninterested in visiting Jordan in particular or any Arab state.

"Groups showing particular interest in going to Jordan included those with higher education, the secular and those with above-average incomes," the Post said. "Fear or insecurity about travelling to Jordan was particularly evident in the group with 10 or less years of schooling and those with less than average income."

Zarqa community college to switch to all women

By Rana Hussein

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Starting in January, Zarqa Community College will be open to only women students after a recent decision by the Ministry of Higher Education to help curb costs at that institution.

According to Ahmad Husban, the secretary general at the ministry, this step became necessary after male enrollment dropped in the past few years.

"Currently, 1,100 women attend the college against only 130 males," Dr. Husban said.

He told the Jordan Times that male enrollment began decreasing at all community colleges after the Ministry of Education took a decision two years ago requiring a bachelors degree as a prerequisite for employment as a teacher at the ministry's schools.

"This decision reflected significantly on the number of males enrolling at community colleges in the Kingdom," he said.

Dr. Husban added that there are 50 government and special community colleges, and that more than 60 per cent of these are coeducational colleges.

However, he said, Zarqa Community College was mixed just in name, but in practice, women students were separated from the male students.

He said that this year will be the final year for the second-year male students attending college. For next year, only women will attend the day classes.

The 30 male students currently in their first year at the college will be transferred to other colleges, he said.

The change, according to Dr. Husban, "will decrease the cost of the government-run college."

He said that community college introduced new courses to their curriculum in an effort to overcome the decreasing number of male students enrolling in community colleges.

"As you know, community colleges are designed to educate and increase awareness of people, rather than simply granting a degree to help graduate get employed," Dr. Husban said.

"But we added new courses such as computer programming, fashion design, skin care, and others," he said.

He stressed that the change at Zarqa Community College will not reflect on other community colleges.

"This college is a special case because it had day and evening classes. The morning was designed for women, and the evening for men, and it was costing the ministry significantly, and I believe we took the right decision," Dr. Husban said.

Japanese, Jordanian universities sign medical exchange agreement

AMMAN (J.T.) — The University of Jordan's Faculty of Medicine and the Nihon University School of Medicine in Japan Saturday signed an agreement on medical exchanges aimed at contributing to international collaboration in fields of interest to both institutions, according to a University of Jordan spokesperson.

Under the agreement, the two sides agreed to promote the exchange of faculty to undertake joint research and teaching activities, cooperate in other projects of mutual interest including training sessions, workshops, seminars and conferences.

They also agreed on encouraging their respective faculties to conduct joint research on topics of major concern to both of them, cooperate in standing projects currently available at both institutions, encourage the exchange of research and study materials, publications and information as a means of facilitating the interchange of medical technology.

The agreement said that it aims at strengthening mutual friendship between the two universities, establishing a viable foundation for medical education in Jordan thereby strengthening clinical and research activities and enhancing the growth and development of both universities in their own respective countries.

The three-year agreement, which was signed by University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharalbeh and Professor Yokiharu Sezal, dean of the Nihon University School of Medicine and its vice-president, is renewable automatically for an additional period.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

- King receives PSD chief**
AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday received at the Royal Court Public Security Department (PSD) Director Lieutenant General Abdul Rahman Al Udwan and senior PSD officials who offered their best wishes to the King on the occasion of his 59th birthday. Lt.-Gen. Udwan presented King Hussein, in the name of the PSD, with a memento. The meeting was attended by Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shakir.
- Traffic safety seminar to start**
AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security Department (PSD) will organise a two-week seminar on international traffic safety beginning Nov. 26 with the aim of promoting cooperation between the Traffic Department and local societies concerned with traffic safety. The seminar, which will be organised by Swedish experts, will discuss several issues related to driving vehicles, training and educating drivers, vehicle mechanical safety, traffic laws and accidents.
- Princess Rania opens exhibition**
AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Rania Abdullah Saturday opened at Alia Art Gallery an exhibition of artworks by Maher Al Samara'i. The exhibition includes paintings and ceramics utilising Arabic calligraphy as a recurrent theme.
- CVDB extends JD6.1m in loans**
AMMAN (Petra) — the Cities and Villages Development Bank (CVDB) has extended 92 loans worth JD6,186,000 to local municipal councils. During the first 10 months of 1994. Some 71 municipal councils and 21 rural councils benefitted from the loans to finance several projects. Last year, the bank extended 172 loans worth JD7,487,000.
- Chief of Staff sees off battalion**
AMMAN (Petra) — Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Abdul Hafez Miral Al Kaabneh Saturday attended a celebration held to bid farewell to a Jordanian battalion leaving for Croatia to replace another Jordanian peacekeeping force deployed there. Gen. Kaabneh urged the battalion's personnel to carry out their duties in the best manner and urged them to preserve Jordan's reputation abroad.
- Balqa shuts down restaurants, shops**
SALT (Petra) — Balqa Governor Eid Qataneh Saturday shut down several restaurants, bakeries, poultry and grocery shops, hair dressers' and tile plants for violations of health regulations. Mr. Qataneh said the measures were temporary, and the stores and shops will be re-opened as soon as they comply with the regulations.

- FILM**
★ Film entitled "Father Goose" at the American Center at 5:00 p.m.
- LECTURES**
★ Lecture entitled "The Epigraphic Survey of Bayir, Southern Jordan" by Dr. Fawaz Al Krayshah at the American Center of Oriental Research at 5:00 p.m.
★ Lecture in Arabic entitled "Who Are the Hebrews?" by Dr. Ziad Musa at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6:00 p.m.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- EXHIBITIONS**
★ Ceramics exhibition by Maher Samarra'i at Alia Art Gallery.
★ Ceramics exhibition by Najwa Annab at the Orfali Art Gallery.
★ Ceramics exhibition by Sa'id Al 'Ani at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art. Also showing a paintings exhibition by Husni Abu Karim.
★ Exhibition on human international law entitled "Draw-

- ings from Arab Calligraphy" at the Royal Cultural Centre. Also showing an exhibition of wooden products by Atallah Zabaneh.
- ★ First Exhibition of Jordanian Engineering and Electric Products at the Amman International Exhibition hall, Marj Al Hamam.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Daniel Argimon at the Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre).
- ★ Exhibit entitled "Signs and Symbols: Communication and Interpretation from the Brandywine Workshop" at the American Center.
- ★ Ceramics exhibition by Mahmoud Taha at Darat Al Funun.

Condolences

The editor and staff of the Jordan Times extend their heartfelt condolences to their colleague Ibrahim Salhi on the death of his father

Said Salhi
who passed away on Saturday.
May his soul rest in peace.

هناك من لا يعلم

Chissano wins Mozambique elections

MAPUTO (AFP) — Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique's ruling former Marxist party won the state's first free elections after a bitter civil war, electoral officials announced Saturday.

Mr. Chissano, the head of state and leader of the FRELIMO (Mozambique Liberation Front) party won outright after the first round with 53.3 per cent of the vote held on Oct. 27-29, the official results showed.

His only serious rival, ex-guerrilla commander Afonso Dhlakama, achieved only 33.73 per cent of the presidential vote.

FRELIMO won the first multi-party parliamentary elections after 20 years in power in the southern African nation obtaining 44.33 per cent of the vote, giving it the largest number of seats in the 250-seat new parliament.

But Mr. Dhlakama's RENAMO (Mozambique National Resistance) opposition nonetheless came close with 37.78 per cent of the vote.

Of 14 parties or coalitions contesting parliamentary elections, only one other, the Democratic Union, managed to pass the 5 per cent threshold into parliament with 5.15 per cent of the vote.

Addressing the nation on

television immediately after the National Elections Commission announced his victory, Mr. Chissano said: "The Mozambique people won these elections, they voted for peace."

"War was beaten, and with it any attempt to divide the country by region or tribe," the president-elect said. He and the FRELIMO party recognised the people's vote of confidence in them, to continue the process of national reconciliation after the 16-year post-independence civil war which ended two years ago.

Mr. Dhlakama, whose RENAMO former guerrilla group led the struggle against FRELIMO's government until the 1992 peace accord, said: "The people won these elections."

Mr. Chissano now has three weeks to name his new cabinet including the nation's 11 provincial governors as he takes the helm of a multi-party regime with strong presidential powers.

In terms of policy-making, RENAMO's strong position in parliament is thus likely to be more symbolic than practically significant.

However, political analysts in Maputo expect Mr. Chissano to attribute some positions of power to RENAMO members in the central region where its support is strongest.

The head of the two-year old U.N. peacekeeping mission in Mozambique, Aldo Ajello made an announcement on behalf of the United Nations to say that the polls had been "free and fair."

"This is a fantastic day for me, it means the peace process is finally complete," he said.

Despite his defeat and former threats to reject the election results due to alleged fraud, Mr. Dhlakama has apparently accepted the outcome.

He entered the national parliament buildings for the first time Saturday to hear the official announcement of the results.

Announcing the results, the president of the National Elections Commission, Brazao Mazula, admitted the commission had received numerous complaints about alleged irregularities.

However, he said, the commission examined all these complaints and found none of them to constitute deliberate fraud which could alter the election's outcome.

Some 88 per cent of the 6.4 million registered voters cast their ballots in the poll.

In his address to the nation, Mr. Chissano reaffirmed his promise to ensure Mr. Dhlakama received a "dignified" and respectable treatment as opposition leader.

Groups of peoples followed the announcement of the results on radio and then jogged through the streets of the capital Maputo cheering FRELIMO's win.

Cars honked and people shouted Mr. Chissano's name. Others planned victory parties for Saturday night.

Mr. Dhlakama said Saturday the country's elections had not been fair but he accepted his defeat.

"We accept the election results, but they were not fair," he told a news conference at his Maputo residence.

"However, we acknowledge that they were the only elections and we accept them with their deficiencies."

Mr. Dhlakama said he would play a constructive role as the main opposition leader in the 250-seat parliament, where RENAMO will hold 112 seats. He said the greatest victory of the Mozambique people who for the first time would enjoy multi-party rule.

"There will never again be dictatorship in our country. From now on the people will have a representative voice in parliament," he said.

Mr. Dhlakama echoed calls by the FRELIMO government for peace, saying: "I send a message of peace to the Mozambique people."



Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds (centre) and President Mary Robinson (left) attend the ecumenical service for Peace and Reconciliation at Christchurch Cathedral in Dublin (AFP photo)

Ahern elected new Irish party leader

DUBLIN (R) — Finance Minister Bertie Ahern was elected unopposed Saturday as the leader of Fianna Fail, Ireland's largest political party — but the republic's political crisis appeared far from over.

Ahern took over from outgoing Prime Minister Albert Reynolds and immediately promised to keep the fragile Northern Ireland peace initiative on the rails.

"The peace process must continue on, without interruption, without hesitation, without pause. That is our duty and our responsibility. It can bring a peace divided of happiness, employment and shared prosperity," he told a party meeting.

The 43-year-old Ahern, a consensus politician renowned for his skill with opponents, took over as party leader after his only rival, Justice Minister Maire Geoghegan-Quinn, dropped out.

Mr. Ahern, the youngest leader in the 70-year history of Fianna Fail, now faces an uphill climb trying to form a new government with the Labour Party, which pulled out in protest at Mr. Reynolds' handling of an extradition case.

British and Irish politicians have united in urging continued peace talks in Northern Ireland where both the Irish Republican Army and its Protestant guerrilla foes have called ceasefires in the 25-year-old conflict.

Mr. Ahern told his party: "I want to continue the magnificent peace-making task Albert Reynolds began and I pledge to put the best and most experienced people to work on this key task."

Irish political commentators said a quick resolution of the republic's crisis was unlikely. Parliament meets Tuesday to try and choose a new government and prime minister.

The Irish Times said Labour would propose its leader and "kingmaker" Dick Spring as the new premier, a move that is bound to infuriate Fianna Fail, the biggest party in a country well used to political upheavals.

Mr. Ahern and Mr. Spring are expected to hold exploratory talks over the weekend. If they fail, then Labour could be tempted into an alliance with opposition Fine Gael leader John Bruton. If that stalls, Ireland will be plunged into a general election just two years after the

last one. All sides on both sides of the Irish Sea have pledged not to let the instability interfere with a peace process that began with a joint Anglo-Irish declaration a year ago for which Mr. Reynolds took much credit.

But Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams, president of the IRA's political wing, urged politicians in Dublin to sort their troubles out as quickly as they could.

A protracted crisis leaving Ireland without an effective government could dent the fragile process at a crucial time.

Mr. Reynolds and British Prime Minister John Major were expected to announce soon the next stage in the process, a framework document for all-party talks in Northern Ireland.

Britain is also gearing up for unprecedented exploratory talks which it promised to hold with Sinn Fein after three months of peace.

These talks will be very delicate. Britain is expected to ask the IRA to hand in its powerful arsenal before full talks can begin — a demand Sinn Fein will find it hard to agree to.

Bangladesh rivals under pressure to end hostilities

DHAKA (AFP) — International pressure mounted Saturday on the Bangladesh government and opposition to end a bitter dispute, with Commonwealth envoy Sir Niall Stephen likely to end a mediation mission soon.

Ambassadors from the United States, Canada and Britain, all major aid donors, were to meet political leaders Sunday, reliable sources said.

U.S. Ambassador David N. Merrill, Canadian High Commissioner Jon Scott and his British colleague Peter Fowler held separate meetings with opposition leader Sheikh Hasina Wajed Friday.

They urged her not to resign from parliament, the Bangladesh news agency (BSS) reported.

The sources said the diplomats warned Mr. Wajed of the crisis that would erupt if the 153 opposition legislators resigned from parliament.

The diplomats have been working behind the scenes to end the eight month opposition boycott of parliament. They are demanding the government stand down or pass a constitutional amendment to allow free elections under a caretaker administration.

The dispute has led to several nationwide strikes and deadly clashes.

The ambassadors are preparing a proposal to end the dispute and have met the Commonwealth envoy several times in the past week, political sources said.

Some observers were hopeful a solution would be found before Monday, when Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and Mr. Wajed are to meet at an Armed Forces Day ceremony. Since 1991, the ceremony has been the only place where the two leaders meet.

Reliable sources said Sir Niall was likely to leave for Australia Tuesday. The opposition Sangbad newspaper reported that Sir Niall had set Tuesday as the deadline for a settlement.

Since arriving on Oct. 13, Sir Niall, a former governor general of Australia, has dealt with 14 proposals, according to one newspaper estimate.

Mr. Zia leaves for the

Maldives Wednesday for a two-day official visit as current chairperson of the South Association for Regional Cooperation.

A senior leader of Mr. Wajed's Awami League (AL) told AFP that the opposition might accept a presidential appointment by the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party or the country's chief justice as the head of an interim government.

But they will not accept Mrs. Zia, as the BNP insists. The BNP, which rejected the opposition stand for several months, reportedly agreed in their last proposal to an interim government with ruling and opposition MPs and a technocrat.

Clinton urges 'practical' solutions to problems

HONOLULU, Hawaii (Agencies) — President Bill Clinton, still stinging from congressional election setbacks, Friday urged "practical" solutions to the country's problems and no "moaning" or "being negative."

Mr. Clinton, who is spending a few days relaxing here with first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, after returning from a trade mission to Asia, paid tribute to the outgoing governor of Hawaii, John Waihele.

At a farewell dinner for the governor, Mr. Clinton spoke glowingly about Hawaii's employer-paid health care system and bitterly about its failure to pass legislation to create a similar system nationwide.

"What you have done here in health care is basically what we ought to do everywhere," Mr. Clinton said.

The president said he was "surprised and somewhat disappointed" that when he proposed a similar system, "the people who profit greatly from the other sort of system" were able to convince Americans his plan was a government takeover of health care.

Mr. Clinton gave no hint

whether he will seek broad reform again next year when Republicans will control both the House and the Senate for the first time in 40 years.

He joked to the audience about the "chilly" climate in Washington in the aftermath of the election and said Hawaii's health system is an example of what the whole country must do.

"What has always made us great is not moaning or being negative or being divided or running down people who are different from what we are," Mr. Clinton said.

"What has always made us great is coming together, facing our problems, joining together and figuring out some practical hardheaded ways to solve our problems," he added.

During their brief vacation here, the Clintons have been spending their time relaxing and staying out of the public view.

The first lady has been reading or walking along the beach at the Kaneohe Marine Base where they are staying in a guest cottage.

The president, meanwhile, has been spending almost all of his time playing golf.

The Clintons stopped here

for a brief stay on return from a trip to the Philippines and Indonesia, where the president attended the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum summit.

Meanwhile state Democratic leaders searched for clues to the party's mid-term election debacle and laid a good deal of blame on White House strategic and policy blunders.

Looking ahead, the Democrats said the party's chances of recapturing House and Senate majorities in 1996 rested largely on whether President Clinton could recover and win re-election. They urged him to focus on the economy and government reforms and spend more time outside Washington explaining his initiatives and accomplishments.

Looking back, the party leaders said that from gays in the military to health care reform, Mr. Clinton projected a liberal image that cost the party critical support among independents and male voters, particularly in the south and west.

"He was perceived as being out of sync with many of the new Democrat principles that folks supported when they voted for presi-

dent in 1992," said Tom Hendrickson, the North Carolina Democratic chairman.

Ironically, in touting his biggest achievement — steady economic growth — Mr. Clinton may have stirred resentment among lower-income blue collar workers whose wages are stagnant or declining. Many of these traditional Democratic voters stayed home or supported Republicans.

"Neither the president nor the rest of us did a very good job of addressing the problems of the middle class, particularly the blue collar middle class," said Texas Democratic Chairman Bob Slagle.

"Results have not yet trickled down to average Americans," said Harold Ickes, the deputy White House chief of staff dispatched to the meeting to soothe the anger and disappointment of the state party officials.

At their first post-election gathering, the Democratic leaders said it was not their intent to pummel Mr. Clinton, and they thanked him for raising more than \$40 for the party and its candidates.

The state leaders said Mr. Clinton had an impressive list of accomplishments that were lost on most Americans.

Final tally gives Feinstein California Senate seat

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) — California Senator Dianne Feinstein claimed victory after the latest tally from the vote last week gave her a clear lead in the most expensive race in U.S. history.

"I believe the vote count clearly indicates that I am going to continue to represent California," Ms. Feinstein said.

Her challenger Michael Huffington said however that he was concerned about "massive voting irregularities" and said he would ask immigration officials to check voter roles to see if non-citizens had cast ballots.

Immigration was a pivotal issue in the race, with Mr. Huffington backing a measure to deny illegal aliens services and their children public education and Ms. Feinstein opposing it.

The law, Proposition 187, passed by a wide margin but has been blocked by a judge

a probe into the voter lists "reveals that fraud, while a problem, is not widespread enough to question the election results, and that Mrs. Feinstein has received a majority, then I will unhesitatingly congratulate her on her victory."

The latest count showed Ms. Feinstein more than 152,000 votes ahead of Mr. Huffington in the race which cost the oil tycoon \$27 million of his own fortune.

Meanwhile, California voters who overwhelmingly supported rapid action to cut services for illegal immigrants now face a series of protracted court battles that could stretch out implementing the law for years.

Six out of 10 California voters approved the controversial Proposition 187 when they went to the polls on Nov. 8, hoping to put an end to the massive state spending channeled to the

(SOS) referendum ordered the state government to cut all funds for medical assistance — with the exception of emergency aid — as well as education and social expenditures doled out for illegal aliens.

It also required school officials, social workers and police to report any people they suspected of being illegal aliens.

State taxpayers had become fed up with footing the more than \$3 billion annual bill for some 1.6 million illegal immigrants in California, most of them coming from Latin America.

But within 24 hours of the vote, immigrant and civil rights groups began court action to block the proposal's implementation, arguing the law was unconstitutional.

A federal judge in Los Angeles Wednesday issued a 10-day suspension against cutting off medical benefits as

schools. In San Francisco, a judge suspended one of the proposition's orders calling for the expulsion of illegal immigrants from schools.

Only two elements of the proposal remained intact and they concerned increasing the penalties for making or possessing false identification papers.

Immigrants rights supporters heralded the decisions as the first victory for their cause. "When you win a temporary restraining order, you're well on your way to a bigger victory," said Stephen Yagman, an attorney for one of the plaintiffs.

"We anticipated this," said Ron Prince, one of the founders of the SOS movement, who is convinced this is but a lost battle on the way to winning the war.

"You're going to have pluses and minuses all the way. We'll continue to work

6 people shot dead in Karachi

KARACHI (Agencies) — At least six people were killed in several shootings here Saturday, hospital and police sources said.

The victims included a police constable who was hit by a sniper and a 14-year boy caught in crossfire between two groups, witnesses said.

Incidents of violence have been occurring almost daily in Pakistan's largest city despite the deployment of

troops aimed at restoring peace.

The law and order deterioration in Karachi is generally attributed to ethnic, political and religious frictions.

Police said young militants of rival factions of the Mohajir National Movement (MQM) began shooting from rooftops in the tense Korangi area early in the morning. The boy died instantly

when a bullet hit his head. The bullet-riddled bodies of two unidentified youngsters were found in the same locality in the early hours.

"The firing is a result of factional fighting between the militants MQM," a Korangi police officer said.

Troops and police made no effort to intervene, and no arrests were made, the officer said.

Nepal's Congress concedes defeat

KATHMANDU (R) — Nepal's liberal Congress Party conceded defeat in the Himalayan kingdom's general elections Saturday as its Communist rivals sought to patch together a coalition to help it govern a divided electorate.

"We are out of power," Congress spokesman Mahesh Acharya told Reuters. "The indications are we will have to sit in the opposition."

With 175 to 205 parliamentary seats decided, the Communist Party Unified Marxist-Leninist (UML) had won 83 seats while Congress, the outgoing ruling party, had 62.

"I think it is very clear the voters don't want us in the government," Mr. Acharya said. "We have to abide by this verdict."

Congress and the Com-

munist fought side by side for decades against autocratic rule, finally putting an end to the kingdom's absolute monarchy in 1990 with pro-democracy demonstrations in which more than 50 people were killed.

The two parties participated in an interim government before 1991 multiparty elections won by Congress.

But Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, sapped by allegations of corruption and party infighting, was forced to call snap polls when he lost a vote of confidence in July.

On Saturday, as the final votes trickled in from villages to Kathmandu, the UML was on the verge of winning at least a plurality of votes and leading the kingdom into communism.

Polling in some 18 constituencies, disrupted by violence Tuesday, was rescheduled for the weekend and authorities said final results might not be announced for several days.

Mr. Acharya said a UML-led government would have to respect democracy, the constitutional monarchy and human rights, as well as Congress's economic policies of liberalisation.

"There is no reason for us to be disheartened," Mr. Acharya said. "Congress's policies will be carried out. They (UML) have to be pragmatic."

UML President Man Mohan Adhikari was set to become the next prime minister, UML General Secretary Madhav Kumar Nepal said.

Australian to be deported from E. Timor

DILI, East Timor (R) — An Australian was to be deported from East Timor Saturday after one of the biggest pro-independence protests since a massacre by Indonesian authorities in 1991.

Dili Police Chief Colonel Sugianto Andreas said Andrew Naughtan, from Darwin in Australia's Northern Territory, would be deported for becoming involved in local politics and taking part in Friday's demonstration outside Dili's cathedral.

Andreas said Dili was calm with business returning to normal after being rocked this week by a series of violent demonstrations that refocused world attention on the Portuguese colony Indonesia invaded in 1975 and annexed a year later.

"He (Naughtan) was involved in local politics and was in the midst of the demonstration yesterday. We will be deporting him today," Col. Andreas told Reuters.

It was unclear Saturday morning whether Mr. Naughtan

on a tourist visa, had already been deported.

Meanwhile, 29 East Timorese youths marked the start of their second week holed up in the U.S. embassy compound in Jakarta with renewed calls for the release of guerrilla Xanana Gusmao, who leads East Timor's independence movement. He is serving a 20-year jail sentence for subversion.

Looking tired and dirty after a week sleeping on the ground, the East Timorese embarrassed Indonesia by scaling the embassy fence last Saturday before a meeting of Asia-Pacific leaders, including U.S. President Bill Clinton.

In Jakarta, Indonesia's armed forces commander General Feisal Tanjung said Saturday the authorities would welcome the protesters if they left the compound.

Col. Andreas said police would not arrest any East Timorese involved in Friday's fresh protest in Dili. He said they had decided to

Several hundred East Timorese youths protested violently Friday outside the cathedral, beating two Indonesians with blows and kicks. The two were badly injured.

The demonstrators and 200 worshippers were then pelted with rocks by a group of Indonesians gathered outside the cathedral compound.

The deportation order came amid fresh accusations from security officials that foreign journalists were fanning unrest in East Timor.

Dili's military spokesman Major Laedan Simbolon said there were signs foreign journalists helped ignite the protest.

The United Nations regards Portugal as the administering power and does not recognise Indonesian sovereignty.

The Foreign Ministry denied Friday that any riots had taken place in Dili, blaming the violence on a traders quarrel, and dismissed the

Boy informs on burglar father

BEIJING (AFP) — A 12-year-old boy has helped Beijing police crack an eight-month burglary ring by adopting the Orwellian expedient of squealing on his own father.

The boy in question, Jin Rui, had his suspicion aroused when his father returned home one day with three strangers and a bag full of hairdressing equipment.

The China Daily said, Jin's father refused to respond to his questions regarding the source of the equipment but when he heard the next day of a robbery at a nearby barber shop, the adolescent detective put the fact together.

Jin reported his suspicions to the local police who searched the family's house and arrested Jin's father together with seven other accomplices. During the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution, national publicity was often given to zealous sons and daughters who accuse their parents of political crimes.

Thai monk held on pornography charges

BANGKOK (AFP) — A 60-year-old senior Buddhist monk has been arrested on pornography charges after he was found to be in the possession of 75 sex videocassettes and 377 magazines, police said Saturday.

"I just want to look at them. I don't see anything wrong with that," Mahasupin Kunarat, an assistant to the abbot at a monastery in the southern Thai province of Nakhon Si Thammarat, was quoted by a police spokesman as saying. The arrest follows an operation Thursday in which a police officer had asked for an audience with the Buddhist leader and was invited to watch Japanese pornographic film.

The monk was also found to have three bottles of whisky in addition to a television and a video player. The monk was likely to escape punishment with his superior judging the offense as "minor," police said.

Prosecution rests in 'Hollywood madam' trial

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A woman testified Friday that she was sent by Heidi Fleiss to a hotel room to have sex with a group of men who turned out to be undercover police officers. "You expected to engage in sex for money, didn't you?" Kimberly Burch was asked a videotape by Deputy District Attorney Alan Carter. "Yes I did," Ms. Burch said. "I knew what was expected."

Ms. Burch, who testified a videotape because of illness was the last prosecution witness in Mr. Fleiss' perjury trial. Defence lawyers beg presenting their case Monday. Prosecutors say Mr. Fleiss ran a call-girl ring catering to the rich and famous. Her lawyers say it so-called Hollywood madam was entrapped by police, at is the victim of selective prosecution because her client weren't arrested. Ms. Fleiss, 28, faces 11 years in prison convicted. The clients Ms. Burch and three other women met at the Bever Hilton Hotel in June 1995 were undercover Beverly Hills Police officers posing as businessmen. One of the officers counted out \$1,500 cash and asked what sex acts Ms. Burch would perform for that fee, she testified. Soon after, about 2 officers burst into the room and arrested Ms. Burch and the other women. Ms. Burch and Samantha Burdette were granted immunity for testifying against Ms. Fleiss.

Mother who stabbed rapist freed by court

LONDON (R) — A British judge refused to jail a woman who stabbed a man accused of raping her 13-year-old daughter. The woman, who cannot be named for legal reasons, attacked David Harcup with a flick-knife when he spotted him waiting at doctor's office near her home. Mr. Harcup had been charged with raping the woman's daughter but was freed when evidence against him did not hold up. Judge George Bathurst-Norma said he was "staggered" the rape charge against Mr. Harcup had been dropped and gave the mother a nine-month prison sentence, suspended for two years. He said she "had every reason to feel let down" by the decision.

Boy informs burglar
A 12-year-old boy has informed a burglar that he was in the house when the burglar entered. The boy, who is a member of a local youth group, said he was in the house when the burglar entered and he was not hurt. The burglar was caught by the police and is now in custody.

ader
The ader is a type of bird that is found in the mountains of the Himalayas. It is a small bird with a long tail and a sharp beak. It is known for its ability to fly at high altitudes and its ability to survive in harsh conditions.

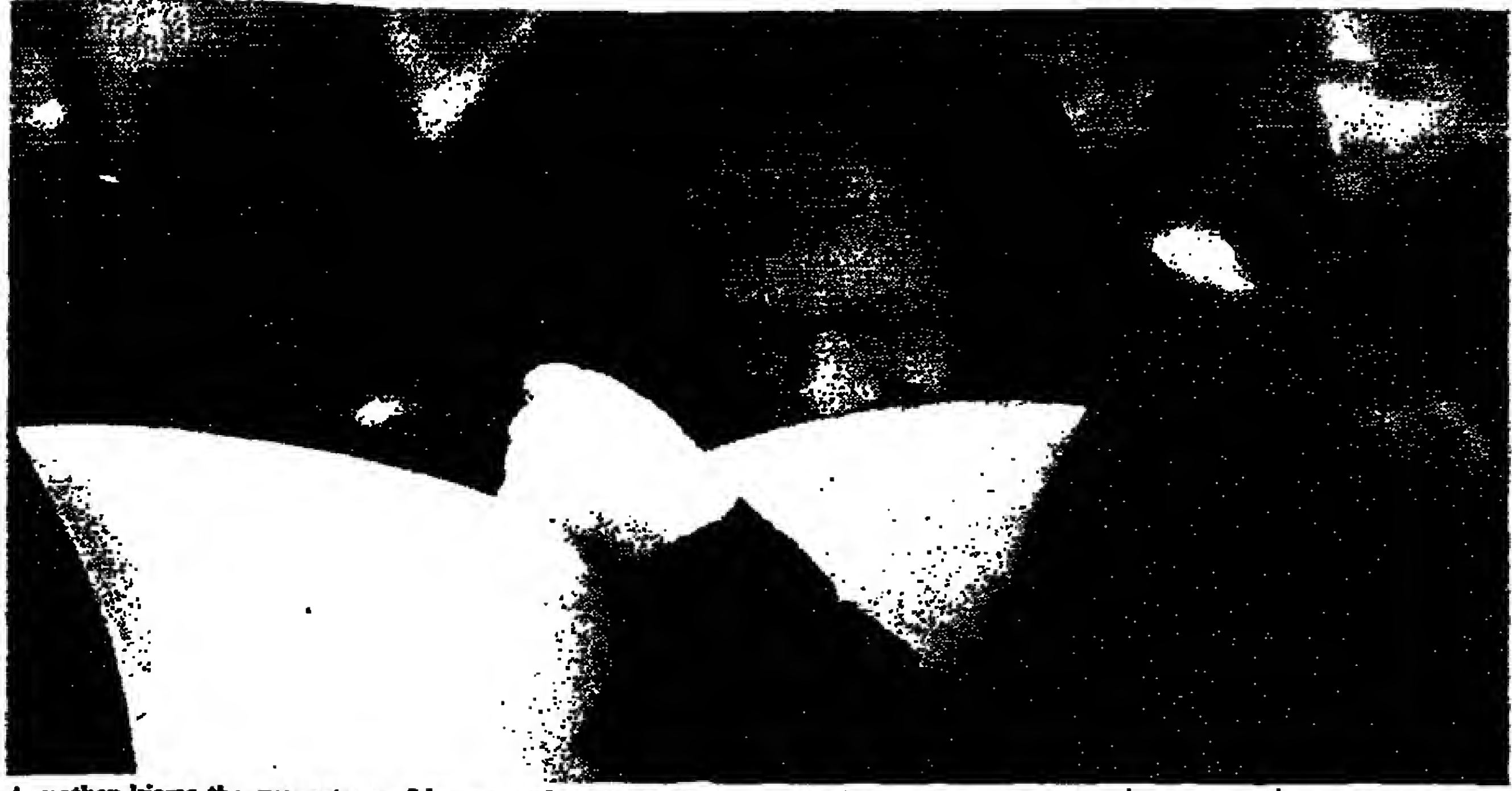
rachi
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A mother kisses the gravestone of her son who was killed during the fighting for Vukovar, at a three-year commemorative service Friday in the city, located in the self-proclaimed Serb Republic of Krajina, an enclave of Croatia (AFP photo).

Negotiator to sign for Angolan rebels

LUSAKA (R) — UNITA's peace talks negotiator will sign an Angola peace accord in the Zambian capital Lusaka Sunday instead of rebel leader Jonas Savimbi, an Angolan government source said Saturday.

The source said a UNITA commander had told the United Nations Mr. Savimbi would not come to Lusaka but negotiator Eugenio Manuvakola should sign on his behalf.

Angolan President Eduardo Dos Santos arrived in Zambia's capital Lusaka Saturday and his government promised Mr. Savimbi safe passage if he would come to sign a peace accord Sunday.

United Nations and Zambian officials told reports they did not know whether Mr. Savimbi, whose main base at Huambo in Angola's central highlands was overrun by government troops this month, would come.

The peace would end 19 years of civil war in Angola, an oil and diamond producing country on the west coast of southern Africa that became the cockpit of a cold war proxy conflict after independence from Portugal in 1975.

The Zambian government telephoned Mr. Savimbi Friday asking whether the signing ceremony should be called off.

"He said 'no, no, no, please don't make that announcement. We need more time,'" said the Zambian official, who declined to be identified.

UNITA negotiator Eugenio Manuvakola told reporters at midday he still did not know whether Mr. Savimbi would or come or whether the peace pact would be signed.

"The leadership is in Angola and depending on the military situation, they will decide on the situation of the political events in Lusaka," he said.

The two sides initiated the pact in Lusaka on Oct. 31 after 11 months of U.N.-led talks and announced a truce Tuesday. But fighting continued unabated.

The signing was originally set for Nov. 15 but was postponed to Sunday.

U.N. mediator Alioune Blondin Beye, United States Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs George Moose and a senior Zambian official were considering going to Angola to collect Mr. Savimbi, the Zambian official said.

"We are ready to fly and pick up anytime he is ready," the official said.

Mr. Dos Santos was to take part Saturday in a summit of southern African leaders trying to save the peace accord.

"The Angolan government has ensured that all the necessary measures are in place to guarantee Mr. Savimbi's safe passage to Lusaka to come and sign the peace accord," the Angolan government said in a statement read in Lusaka by U.N. spokesman Joao Albuquerque.

UNITA's Manuvakola, asked about the guarantee, said: "I don't know anything about that. I will rely on information from my leadership."

Zambian and U.N. officials declined to say where Mr. Savimbi was.

A South African government source said Mr. Savimbi was believed to have been in his southeastern bush stronghold of Jamba on Thursday.

U.S. team is satisfied with N. Korean mission

TOKYO (AFP) — A U.S. State Department-led team of nuclear experts left the North Korean capital of Pyongyang Saturday after a landmark, week-long visit which reports from Beijing and Seoul indicated was successful.

In Seoul the South Korean national news agency cited a message passed by the team across the DMZ dividing the two Koreas as saying the team had found some 8,000 weapons-grade, plutonium-rich spent nuclear fuel rods intact.

U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry had said at the height of the nuclear tensions earlier this year that if the plutonium was extracted from the rods, Stalinist North Korea could make "four or five" nuclear bombs.

In Beijing, the Japanese News Agency, Kyodo, quoted team leader Norman Wolf as saying on arrival in the Chinese capital that the five men had toured the North's secretive Yongbyon nuclear complex.

"We met with them for approximately five days and the discussions were intensive and extensive," Kyodo quoted Mr. Wolf as saying, adding that the purpose of the mission, under the Oct. 21 accord, was to deal with the safe disposal of the rods.

He did not however say whether the two sides had agreed on a method of safe disposal.

North Korea, through its mouthpiece Korean Central News Agency monitored in Tokyo called the five days of meetings between the two sides "useful and constructive."

The 8,000 rods were extracted from North Korea's five-megawatt experimental reactor in Yongbyon, 90 kilometres north of Pyongyang earlier this year. In keeping with the Geneva agreement Pyongyang promised not to refuel it, and to dispose of the rods safely in consultation with the United States.

The visit was a landmark in that it was the first time American experts had visited Yongbyon, though the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has been there, and a new IAEA team this weekend was issued visas to help monitor the nuclear freeze which Pyongyang says it effected at the beginning of November.

Citing an unidentified "diplomatic source," Yonhap said the "interim report" from the U.S. team was filed to Washington through a special phone line over the DMZ with "administrative assistance from the American embassy in Seoul."

There was no immediate independent confirmation of the Yonhap report, which also said North Korea had cooperated with the visiting team.

Yonhap said further that the special DMZ hotline had been set up during the visit to Pyongyang in June of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

Non-Communist voice grows in Vietnamese elections

HANOI (Agencies) — A record number of non-Communist candidates are standing in Sunday's provincial and local elections which are being hailed by officials as a step toward greater democracy.

Among the 4,759 candidates for provincial, district and municipal councils, 1,297 are not members of the ruling party.

But most of the non-Communists are still government officials sponsored by the Fatherland Front, an arm of the Communist Party and organisers of the election. So, analysts say, their independence could be questioned.

Yet there are also a record 33 self-proclaimed "independents," including six in Ho Chi Minh City. The authorities had never permitted such contestants in elections before 1990.

Forty million Vietnamese must vote in the polls.

Described in official parlance as the "voice of the people," the councils are elected by Vietnamese 18 years of age and above. A total of 3,109 council members will be chosen for five-year terms in 1,025 constituencies.

But the election has failed to excite the populace despite the relentless propaganda and the omnipresent red banners reminding the population of their duty in a country where voting is mandatory.

The popular councils serve as "mini national assemblies" at the local level. They select members of People's Committees — local executives — which exercise real decision-making power at the local level.

Women, who make up more than half the population, only account for 27 per cent of candidates, and those less than 35 years old comprise 26 per cent.

Chinese president arrives

Meanwhile, Chinese President Jiang Zemin arrived in

U.N. condemns 'villainous' Serb napalm attack on Bihac

SARAJEVO (R) — The United Nations said on Saturday the Serbs were guilty of a "villainous act" in using napalm in an air raid on the Bosnian town of Bihac, a so-called U.N. safe area.

Fresh fighting was reported in the northwestern Bihac region, where Muslim government troops are striving desperately to fend off attacks from rebel Muslims and Serbs from Bosnia and Croatia.

The United Nations said the use of napalm in Friday's raid on Bihac town by Croatian Serb warplanes was the first time napalm — the gelatinous and highly inflammable liquid used to devastating effect by the U.S. in Vietnam — had been used in more than three years of fighting in former Yugoslavia.

"This is the first confirmed use of napalm in the war in Yugoslavia and it represents a clear violation of international conventions which ban the use of such weapons of mass destruction and terror," said U.N. spokesman Paul Risley.

Another U.N. spokesman, Thant Myint-U, described the raid, in which cluster bombs were also dropped, as "a villainous act deserving of the strongest international condemnation."

He added: "It was nothing short of miraculous that extensive loss of life did not occur."

The United Nations said the bombs fell in an uninhabited industrial zone. U.N. staff and local authorities were trying to defuse unexploded cluster bomb parts found in the area.

U.N. military observers said the napalm did not explode, but the area was covered with napalm gelatine. "Had it exploded it would have caused a huge fire," Mr. Risley said.

The Security Council was expected to authorise NATO jets to confront Serb aircraft bombing Bosnia from Croatia after issuing a warning Friday condemning the attack on Bihac.

The Council condemned "in the strongest possible terms the attack on the safe area of Bihac by aircraft belonging to the so-called Krajina Serb forces, which involved the dropping of napalm and cluster bombs in southwest Bihac."

The Council has scheduled consultations for Saturday to consider a British draft resolution that would authorise NATO fighters to chase Serb aircraft attacking Bosnia back into Croatia, and if necessary, bomb their base at Udbina Airport in Croatia, occupied by rebel Serbs.

United Nations officials reported heavy fighting in the Bihac area, where the Bosnian government army's Fifth Corps is facing rebel Muslims backed by Croatian Serbs in attacks from the north and west, while Bosnian Serbs are closing in on Bihac town in the south of the enclave.

There was particularly heavy shelling in the area of Velika Kladusa in the north, where renegade Muslim forces loyal to local tycoon Fikret Abdic have fought battles in the town's streets with the Fifth Corps.

"The heaviest fighting in the Bihac pocket is still reported around Velika Kladusa, but BIH (Bosnia army) soldiers are still in control," said Mr. Risley.

The United Nations believes Mr. Abdic's forces, backed by Croatian Serbs, have pushed forward their front line in the west of the Bihac enclave by up to 1,500 metres.

On the Grabez Plateau,



A woman gets first aid treatment after shells slammed into the centre of the Bosnian capital, injuring several people (AFP photo).

Mitterrand bids farewell to Socialists

LIEVIN, France (AFP) — French President Francois Mitterrand bid farewell to his Socialist Party in this northern mining town Saturday as the party met here to try to define a strategy for presidential elections due next spring.

Mr. Mitterrand, 78, attended a ceremony to mark the 20th anniversary of a coal mine disaster in which 42 perished, and told an enthusiastic crowd of miners and Socialist delegates: "I made a point of being with you. Here are gathered together the women and the men at whose side I fought for so long and who I am happy to meet again."

The head of state, who appeared in form in spite of his prostate cancer, was welcomed by a miner who survived the disaster, Stephane Szczepanski, who thanked him for "showing you have not forgotten the miners' pain."

The last remaining mine in this once-rich coal region was shut down in 1990.

At a nearby athletics stadium overlooking a landscape of slag heaps and abandoned mines, the Socialist Party congress began a three-day debate Friday on its approach to the almost certain candidacy of centrist Jacques Delors, outgoing president of the European Commission, who is on the right of the party.

Mr. Mitterrand has strongly backed Mr. Delors to succeed him and his visit to Lievin, a bastion of socialism which voted for him by more than 80 per cent in 1988 when he was elected for a second seven-year term, was intended as a symbol.

But on Saturday he gave no hint of who was his favourite for the presidential contest, saying "elect who you like, preferably a Socialist, it would be better."

The head of state did not actually attend the Socialist congress, but most of the 2,000 participants turned out to attend the ceremony.

Mr. Mitterrand's aides said that rumours he planned to resign early were "baseless," following the clearest indications yet by Mr. Delors this week that he will stand. He said he would let it be known one way or another before Christmas.

The rumours said that Mr. Mitterrand, whose presidential duties sap his energy, might resign early at a time when Mr. Delors is riding high in opinion polls and the right is badly split by rivalry for the presidency between Prime Minister Edouard Balladur and neo-Gaullist leader Jacques Chirac.

Since its rout in legislative elections in March 1993, the Socialists have adopted a leftist strategy under First Secretary Henri Emmanuelli, but must try to reconcile this with strong opinion poll support for Mr. Delors in the presidential polls next spring.

He is their only hope of returning to government. Last year's legislative left then with only 55 seats in a 577-member National Assembly.

Mr. Delors, a card-

Minister criticises Mitterrand over Rwanda

PARIS (R) — A French minister has stirred fresh controversy over France's role in Rwanda by accusing President Francois Mitterrand of favouring the discredited former Hutu-dominated government.

Cooperation Minister Bernard Debre, a doctor appointed to the centre-right cabinet a week ago after his predecessor resigned over a corruption probe, said the Socialist president's attitude made it hard to reach a consensus policy on Rwanda.

Dr. Debre said in an interview with RFI Radio Friday that "President Mitterrand is very attached to the former Rwandan President (Juvénal) Habyarimana and his family and everything the former regime represented."

"So it is difficult to have a policy of consensus," he said.

The new, Tutsi-dominated government accuses France of undermining its efforts to rebuild a country destroyed by civil war and the genocide of up to one million people between April and July this year blamed on Hutu forces.

The explosion of violence followed Mr. Habyarimana's death in April in a rocket attack on his plane.

Dr. Debre said however French policy over Rwanda was not blocked and that he would seek meetings with all French experts on Rwanda in coming days and would also talk to Mr. Mitterrand.

Officials at the Cooperation Ministry declined comment on Dr. Debre's remarks.

Dr. Debre became widely known to the public when, as a doctor, he headed a team which operated on Mr. Mitterrand for prostate cancer in 1992 and 1994.

France sent 2,500 troops to help stop killings in Rwanda in the summer, and they were widely credited with saving thousands of lives.

When the troops first went in, critics accused Paris of acting with neo-imperialist motives to shield an ally, the former Hutu-led government.

France did not invite Rwanda to a Franco-African summit in the south-west French city of Biarritz last week. Mr. Habyarimana had been a fêted participant at the annual summit from 1975.

At last week's meeting, Mr. Mitterrand shrugged off criticism over Rwanda while justifying sending troops.

"France, every time it is called, tries to counter the threat of war with discretion and with respect for the sovereignty of all countries," he said.

Meanwhile, Zaire's cabinet has hit out at the de facto presence of a Rwandan government in exile on its soil and told refugees camping in the east of the country that they must refrain from all political activity.

In a statement late Friday after its weekly session, the cabinet said it was outraged by the existence in eastern Zaire of a shadow government formed by Hutu ministers who fled when the Rwandan Patriotic Front won the civil war in July.

"No Rwandan government in exile can be set up or can operate on Zairean soil," the cabinet said in a ruling read on state television.

It reminded refugees that they had been granted merely provisional asylum while Zaire waited for the international community to find them a more permanent home and called for an end to all political activity in the camps.

"The cabinet solemnly invites the Rwandan refugees to refrain from all political activities and declarations," it said.

Ensnared in hotels, private villas and religious centres in Goma and Bukavu, former ministers and officials have established a parallel administration working hand in hand with exiled army chiefs and militia men.

These men, many of them accused by human rights groups of masterminding the genocide of Tutsis regularly give speeches in the refugee camps exhorting restless Hutus not to go home.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1973.

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Chance must not slip

THE BLOODY clash that took place between the Palestinian police and Hamas activists in Gaza on Friday and claimed the lives of scores of Palestinians and injured hundreds of others should be an eye-opener as to what could be expected to happen in not only the Gaza Strip but also the West Bank in the months ahead. Besides being the first armed clash of its kind between Palestinians in which the police force belonging to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) fired at defiant demonstrators armed with machine guns, it is also the first open challenge to the PLO leadership by some Gazans. The main concern is whether the killing and looting in the Gaza Strip is a prelude to a civil war that could derail the peace talks between Israel and the PLO altogether.

We believe the root problem for the deterioration in Palestinian ranks stems first and foremost from Israel's undue feckdragging on its peace negotiations with the Palestinian side. The second immediate factor contributing to the new alarming situation is the unfulfilled promises from the international community to provide funds for both building national Palestinian institutions and meeting the needs of poor people still living in despair and deprivation.

Minister of International Cooperation in the PNA Nabil Shaath was right on the mark just before the clash Friday when he said the authority simply cannot disarm Islamic groups "due to Israel's failure to respect the Palestinian-Israeli agreement." This Israeli procrastination, Shaath went on to say, has meant that the PNA lacks "any public support to disarm the opposition groups or take tough measures against them."

This is in essence the quandary in which PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat finds himself in the face of mounting pressures from within and outside the Palestinian territories. Still all these negative factors, be they Israeli made or internationally connected, cannot absolve the Palestinians themselves from the responsibility towards the recent setbacks. As long as the Palestinians are deeply divided, there is really not much that any country or group of countries can do to save them from siege and infighting. The Palestinians now have the chance of a lifetime to create their own independent national institutions on the way, hopefully, to statehood. They must not waste that chance by playing into the hands of their enemies. Otherwise the train would pass them as it did on so many occasions before.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RAY Arabic daily Saturday blamed the violence in Gaza, Friday, on the Israeli government's continued pressure on the Palestine National Authority (PNA) to crack down on the opposition. It said that the bloodshed serves the Israeli occupation authorities and helps achieve Zionist objectives. There is no doubt that the Israeli-U.S. adamant stand against the Palestinians' regaining their full rights and establishing an independent Palestinian state lies behind the tension in the self-rule and the occupied territories, said the daily. Israel is committing a grave blunder by instigating the PNA against Hamas and the other opposition groups in Gaza, but it can ensure a quick end to the violence by ending the Jewish settlements and by terminating occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, said the daily. Blocking financial aid to the PNA, seizing Arab lands, demolishing Arab homes and building new Jewish settlements can by no means help end the violence which remains Israel's responsibility, said the paper. The paper said the PNA and the opposition ought to embark on democratic means to end their disputes and decide on joint action that would end occupation by peaceful means.

NAZIH QOUSUS, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily, Saturday focused public attention on the damages that were inflicted on the roads, bridges and culverts by the recent rains and flood, blaming the contractors for their faulty work. The writer said the highway to Jerash, with its bridges and culverts, was supposed to be capable of withstanding winter storms but it collapsed when the first rains came. The infrastructure was supposed to have been laid after thorough and careful plans by public works engineers but everyone was surprised to see that the supposedly modern highway fell victim to rain water even before the actual rainy season started, said the writer. Definitely there is a fault in the infrastructure and the Ministry of Public Works and its contractors are to blame for the situation, continued the writer. He said that regrettably, Jordanian citizens have been noticing that projects carried out by foreign firms have a longer life than those executed by Jordanian contractors, adding that it is largely because those responsible for the faulty roads are never held accountable for their actions.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

Slashing import taxes

SUDDENLY, the government announced last week a sweeping reduction of custom tax rates on cars and many other items. The minister of finance gave two justifications for the decision: First to alleviate the burden on the citizen, and second to satisfy the requirements of the economic adjustment programme supervised by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The prime minister added a third justification, which is to preempt smuggling, and a fourth, to correct distortions caused by the introduction of the sales tax.

For several months, people were expecting a decision regarding custom taxes on imported cars. The rumour all but froze the car market. During the time of nervous waiting, the minister of finance was not in a position to confirm or deny the unofficial reports about an impending reduction. He was not sure whether the Council of Ministers will uphold or reject his move to reduce tax rates on cars.

Finally the Economic Ministerial Committee met and discussed proposals to reduce the tax. It approved the reduction. Some members of the committee claim that the approval was confined to custom tax on cars only. They were later surprised to find that the Council of Ministers did not only approve a substantial tax reduction on cars, but went on to slash almost in half the import duty applicable to many other items, mostly luxurious goods, such as nuts, cosmetics, carpets, marble, artificial flowers, chandeliers and various electrical equipment.

The government's radical decision was never discussed thoroughly within the government or in business circles. Consumers were also taken by surprise. It just emerged out of the blue.

The cost to the treasury will not be felt immediately. On the contrary, the remaining six weeks of 1994 may witness extensive flow of revenue due to the previously delayed purchases which will now be transacted. Car dealers are expected to empty their present stocks still held in free zones. But the impact of the tax reduction will be felt in 1995 and beyond.

Loss of revenue may be in the order of JD 50 million or 1.25 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) when the budget is required by the adjustment programme to reduce the deficit in 1995 by an equal amount. It is not known yet how the Ministry of Finance will make up for this substantial loss and generate the extra revenue required to reduce the deficit.

To the best of my knowledge, the measure taken was not specifically required by the economic adjustment programme. It is true that the programme calls for lower taxes on imports, but there is no commitment to do anything about it in 1994 or 1995. The government did not commit itself to that in the last letter of intent and was not pressured by the

IMF to do so. Admittedly, the programme calls for a ceiling of 50 per cent custom protection, but only on the longer term. The programme does not intervene when the higher tax is imposed not for protection but merely to generate revenue. Even in the case of goods that have no domestic equivalent, as in the case of a competing domestic product, the programme tolerates import tax higher than 50 per cent provided the local product is taxed by the difference so that the net protection of local production does not exceed the ceiling of 50 per cent.

The claim that the purpose of the decision is to help the average citizen by lowering prices does not stand, because all of the goods that will benefit from the tax reduction are not meant for the limited income group. The major beneficiaries are the rich, who do not need, or deserve, governmental support of prices.

Even if the move was politically motivated to give citizens some economic benefits of peace, it will not serve this purpose because the man in the street will not benefit. A moderate reduction of import tax on cars was understandable after peace in order to match the rates prevailing in the West Bank and Israel. Otherwise, many Jordanians with relatives living in the West Bank or Israel can use those relatives to buy cars there and bring them later to Jordan. We would understand reduction of the extremely high rates applicable to cigarettes and alcohols to avoid tax evasion and smuggling, but to slash the rates on most luxurious commodities was beyond our comprehension.

When inflation rate is less than 4 per cent, reduction of prices is not a priority. Yet prices may not decline proportionately because part of the reduction will be added to the profit margins as the current prices are absorbed by the market and accepted by the consumers. However, even if prices decline a little bit, the poor will not benefit because of the nature of the commodities concerned, which are beyond the means of the poor and will remain so.

As far as sales tax is concerned, the plan was to adjust custom duty up or down, as the case may be, to neutralise the impact of shifting from consumption tax to sales tax with different rates in some cases. The purpose is to maintain stability of prices in the market. Unfortunately, the government failed to do so simultaneously with enactment of the sales tax law. What it did last week does not fall under this concept. If anything, it created additional distortion in prices.

More importantly, the custom reduction will increase imports and worsen the balance of trade already in big deficit. The balance of payments will deteriorate, and the foreign exchange reserves will be brought under pressure.

Arafat faces major crisis; peace process could be threatened

By Nicolas B. Tatro
The Associated Press

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Yasser Arafat, who survived wars in Lebanon and Jordan, is on the brink of a new conflict — this one with Islamic militants in the Gaza Strip.

"It is the beginning of a civil war," said Dr. Ali Jibrili, a political science professor at Bir Zeit University in the West Bank.

Politically, the PLO leader is weaker than he has ever been because he has been unable to make good on promises of a better economic future for Palestinians as a result of the peace process.

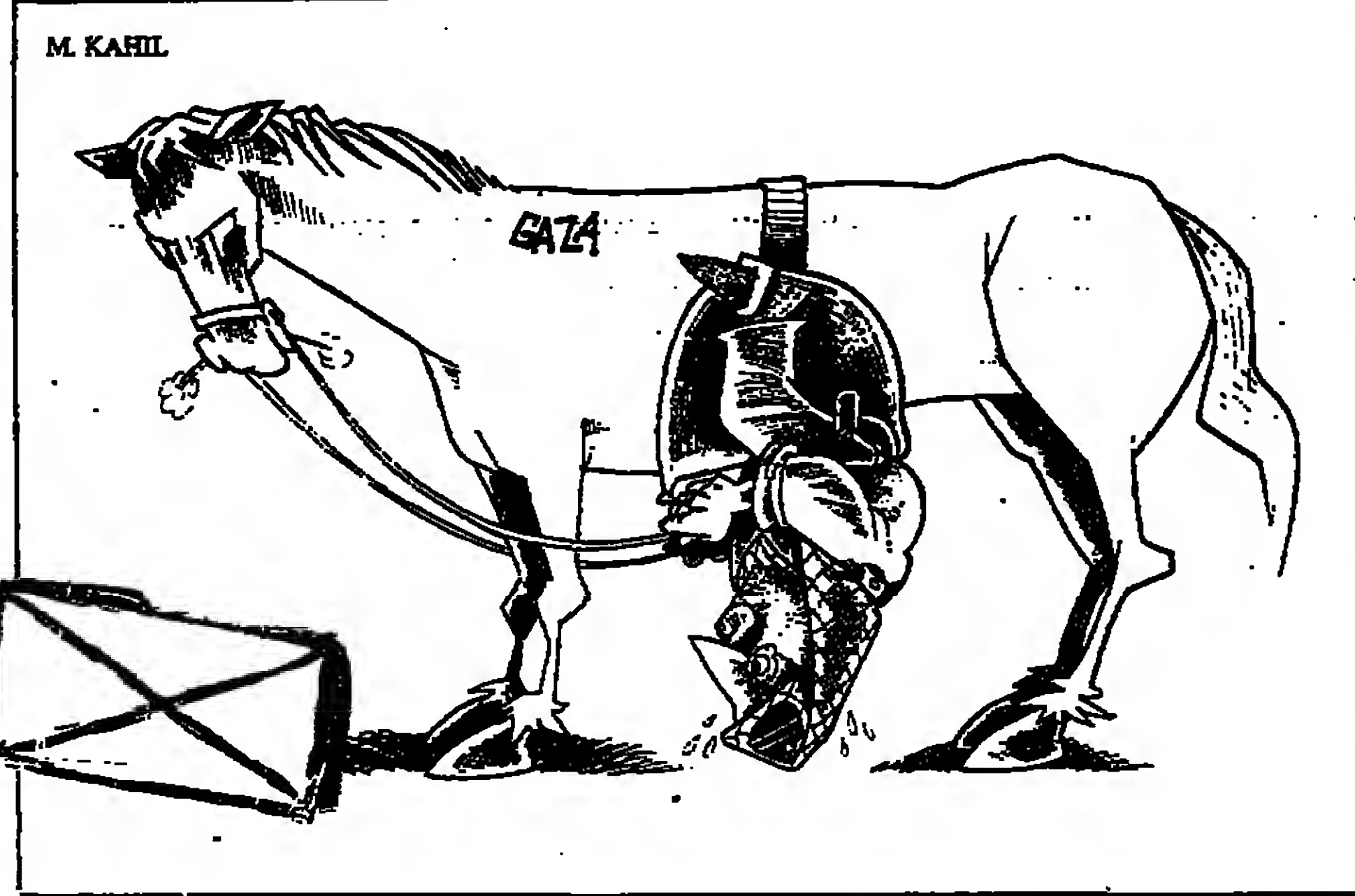
Militarily, however, Mr. Arafat has power in his corner in the form of 10,000 well-armed police — all former guerrilla fighters from Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, Libya and other Arab countries.

Hamas has a few hundred armed followers, most of them highly armed and they are no match for the experienced PLO fighters — many of whom survived the 1982 war in Lebanon.

Bullets alone, however, will probably not be enough to sustain Mr. Arafat's six-month-old autonomy government which came to power as a result of the peace agreement with Israel signed Sept. 13, 1993, on the White House lawn.

"I don't think 10,000 Palestinian police can control the Gaza Strip," Arafat must remember that most of these police have relatives. If some they will think twice before shooting their own people," said Dr. Jibrili.

Anger boiled over in the



Gaza Strip after the PLO police opened fire on worshippers at the Palestine Mosque during Friday noon prayers.

"Arafat traitor" shouted angry demonstrators. Wall slogans vowed revenge against Mr. Arafat's government and loudspeakers in Gaza mosques compared the killings to the Hebron mosque massacre last February in which a Jewish settler shot to death 29 Muslims.

Despite such anger, Hamas activists privately they are not looking for a showdown with Mr. Arafat but that they will demand a stiff political price for a "sulha," Arabic for the settlement of a blood feud.

Hamas insiders suggest that Mr. Arafat would not only have to fire top police officials responsible for the mosque shooting but might

also have to freeze the peace process with Israel which the militants oppose.

If there is no settlement, Dr. Jibrili said Islamic militants could unleash suicide bomb attacks on Palestinian targets as well as Israeli.

Hanan Ashrawi, Mr. Arafat's former spokeswoman, said in an interview with Associated Press Television that the internal warfare between PLO and Islamic groups could spread to the West Bank where one million Palestinians live.

"Let's hope we haven't reached the point of no return, the point of total deterioration and chaos," she said. Adding that violence would have a "drastic effect on the peace process."

Mr. Arafat survived a bloody civil war with Jordan in 1970 and militia battles in Beirut in the 1980s. But he

has a formidable political opponent in the well-financed Islamic militants.

In contrast to Mr. Arafat's government which has failed to deliver new roads, sewerage and housing, the fundamentalist Hamas organisation has carefully built up infrastructure such as health clinics, schools, community centres and youth clubs.

That has given the Islamic militants credibility while Mr. Arafat has little to show, complaining in an interview with the Associated Press last week that he had received only 6 per cent of the \$690 million pledged by international donors.

"There is increasing anger and discontent with the peace process, with the way things have been stalling and with the fact that there are no real results on the ground," Mrs. Ashrawi said.

At mid-term, Rabin pressures Palestinians for political gains

By Michael Jansen

IT IS not surprising that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin should wait until now to announce that Israel would not permit the Palestinians to hold elections in the territories until the PLO removed anti-Israel clauses from its covenant. If raising this demand undermines his agreements with the Palestinians, he can still claim victory in making enough progress towards peace with the rest of the Arab World, proving to the Israeli electorate that he will, once again, be a worthy candidate for prime minister in 1996.

And it is ironic that he should choose to make this statement, which amounts to reneging on the agreements he has signed with the PLO — thereby putting at risk the entire peace process — en route to California where he received the Medal of Freedom presented by the Ronald Reagan Foundation.

The PLO and Israel have been discussing the elections for many months now, the latest phase of discussions coinciding with the signing, at Wadi Araba, of the Jordan-Israeli treaty. Israel has consistently stalled on the elections, raising one condition or another, while the PLO has fitfully pursued its goal of holding the poll by the end of the year, in line with the delayed timetable of implementation of the Oslo accord. This is but the latest device to stall the elections and block the implementation of self-rule.

In an interview with Israel Radio Israel's Economic Planning Minister Shimon Shitreet said that the PLO could not expect Israel to keep its side of the Oslo and Cairo agreements if the Palestinians failed to implement theirs: "One part is the amendment of the Palestinian Covenant" to cancel phrases objectionable to Israel, which, he said, is "more and more necessary" because Palestinians have been making "statements which are contrary to this commitment." Israel cites the use by Palestinian police trainees of slogans calling for the liberation of cities in Israel "proper" as the reason for insisting on amendment of the covenant.

However, the PLO has made no formal, written commitment in either the Oslo or Cairo accords to amend the PLO Covenant. The covenant is, in fact, not mentioned in either document. The only written reference to the covenant comes in the PLO's letter in the exchange of letters with Israel recognising, on the PLO's part, "the right of Israel to exist in peace and security" and, on Israel's part, "the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people." In its letter the PLO affirmed "that the articles in the Palestinian Covenant which deny Israel's right to exist are now inoperative and no longer valid." This being so, amendment of the charter should not be a problem.

This sentence formalised the statement made by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in December 1988 when he said that the articles in the covenant objectionable to Israel were (and be used the French word) "caduc," or obsolete, actually "decayed."

An authoritative Palestinian source told this writer that there had, however, been an "unwritten gentlemen's agreement" between the PLO and Israel requiring the abrogation of the offending phrases in the charter. The Israelis, the source said, wanted Arafat to honour this commitment within three months of the signing of the Oslo Accord in September 1993 while it was eventually agreed that this should be accomplished within the year — September 1993-September 1994.

But this "gentlemen's agreement" has nothing to do with the binding commitments made by both sides in the formal, written Oslo accord and Cairo agreements. And the Israelis should not be allowed, by the Palestinians and the world community, to renege on their written commitments by claiming the PLO has failed to fulfill its commitment in this unwritten agreement, a

commitment it is doubtful that the Palestinians, in their present parlous circumstances could honour. In order to do this Arafat will have to call into session the Palestine National Council and secure a two-thirds majority. This majority would be extremely difficult to obtain because it must be two-thirds of the full PNC and not just of those attending the special meeting. Although Arafat is expected to "pack" such a council with his supporters by appointing the 180 new members from the West Bank and Gaza, he would have to secure the support of another 220 of the 400-odd members from the diaspora. This would be very difficult to do, particularly since 70 have already signed a memorandum opposing abrogating the sensitive clauses in the covenant. The Palestinian informant said that if Arafat won his two-thirds majority it would only be by the "skin of his teeth." The PLO chairman does not like to leave such important matters to slim chance. And Rabin is prepared to take advantage of Arafat's weak position and, perhaps, inability to deliver on the "gentlemen's agreement" in order to promote his own political agenda.

"Pessimists who feared the Gaza-Jericho First Accord would amount to 'Gaza-Jericho First and Last' could be proven right. And if this happens the Jordan-Israel treaty could be at risk and the entire peace process torpedoed because, in the final analysis, there can be no peace in the Middle East until the Palestine problem is resolved to the satisfaction of a majority of Palestinians."

Rabin's ultimatum makes it clear that he is not prepared to go beyond the first territorial phase of the self-rule process because, according to the Oslo Accords, Israel is required to pull its force "outside populated areas after the entry into force of this Declaration of Principles, and not later than the eve of elections for the Self-Government Council."

For Israel to meet this commitment it would have to withdraw its forces from all major Palestinian population centres in the West Bank — Ramallah, Nablus and Hebron — as well as smaller towns and villages. Rabin's government is not prepared to do this, the major obstacle to such withdrawal being illegal Israeli settlers in Nablus and Hebron and Ramallah's position as the northern gateway to Jerusalem.

Hebron is, of course, the most sensitive of the settler locations since 400 Israelis live there among more than 100,000 angry Palestinians and some 4,000 Israeli troops are required to provide security for these settlers.

The well-known Israeli maverick, Dr. Israel Shahak, told this writer some time ago that the settlers in the centre of Hebron had, over the years, amassed a vast arsenal in their homes and were prepared to start a "civil war among the Jews" in order to defend their position. They could do this if Rabin were to redeploy the troops guarding their neighbourhood. Unwilling to court insurrection or mutiny within his army, Rabin is seeking any excuse to avoid implementing the Oslo and Cairo agreements.

This means that pessimists who feared the Gaza-Jericho First Accord would amount to "Gaza-Jericho First and Last" could be proven right. And if this happens the Jordan-Israel treaty could be at risk and the entire peace process torpedoed because, in the final analysis, there can be no peace in the Middle East until the Palestine problem is resolved to the satisfaction of a majority of Palestinians.

Solomon Islands political crisis nears an end

By Belinda Goldsmith
Reuters

SYDNEY — From one prime minister, to two prime ministers, to no prime minister — that's South Pacific politics.

The political upheavals in the Solomon Islands in the past three weeks have intrigued even seasoned observers of the region.

A month ago Prime Minister Francis Billy Hilly was leading the tropical island nation of 320,000 people — only 18 months into a four-year term but losing popularity daily for his strong stance against foreign logging companies.

Government members began defecting in droves. On Oct. 13 Governor-General Moses Pitakaka sacked Mr. Hilly, who no longer had

majority support in parliament, and appointed opposition leader and former Prime Minister Solomon Mamaloni as caretaker leader.

But Mr. Hilly, usually a quiet, reserved man, refused to step down, leaving the Solomon Islands with two prime ministers.

Mr. Hilly appealed to the courts, an action which convinced voters who take political change in the typically relaxed style of the peoples of Melanesia are known for.

The Solomon Islands court of appeal overruled Mr. Hilly's sacking and Mr. Mamaloni's appointment as caretaker became invalid.

But a few days later the supreme court overturned the earlier ruling and supported Mr. Hilly's sacking.

Mr. Hilly's grip on power quickly weakened in the political corridors of Honiara, a

one-traffic-light town, and he announced his resignation on Oct. 31.

A parliamentary vote on Monday will decide whether Mr. Mamaloni or the nation's first governor-general, Sir Baddeley Deves, will be the new prime minister.

Observers have tipped Mr. Mamaloni, a mercurial character who has been prime minister twice before, most recently from 1989 to 1993.

"Mamaloni is a charismatic figure, very popular at grassroots level with a mischievous sense of humour who like jokes and playing tricks," a diplomat in Honiara told Reuters.

"But he is also extremely moody and unpredictable and in the past has fallen out with other governments."

Mr. Mamaloni's probable return will not be welcomed by the neighbours of the

Solomon Islands, a scattered archipelago of several hundred islands that was invaded and occupied by the Japanese during World War II.

Mr. Mamaloni has already indicated he may recognise secession for the nearby Papua New Guinea island of Bougainville, where rebels of the Bougainville revolutionary army have been fighting Papua New Guinea troops for six years.

He is also unlikely to continue Mr. Hilly's battle against logging companies in the Solomons, a former British protectorate which gained independence in 1978.

At this year's South Pacific forum meeting in Brisbane, it was revealed that revenues of up to Australian dollars 55 million (\$40 million) — almost half the value of the Solomon Islands' total exports — were lost in 1993,

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Features

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1994 7

'Islam, being a social and ethical reform movement, guarantees rights and freedoms to all'

The following is the text of the speech with which her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath opened the exhibition of calligraphy on Nov. 16. The exhibition was organised by the International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent which will run until Nov. 23.

I am privileged to be asked by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent to speak at the opening of this calligraphy exhibition, which represents Arab and Islamic perspectives on human rights.

It is surprising how often I am asked to speak about "Islam and Human Rights", as if the two were in some way contradictory, and need to be reconciled. It is almost as if a choice must be made between the competing

alternatives of Islam, on the one hand, and human rights, on the other. Yet, one of the distinguishing features of the human rights discourse is its secularity. By this I do not mean that human rights lack a spiritual content, but rather that they transcend questions of religious orientation and are acceptable to followers of all faiths. In this sense, one may work for human rights while believing in a religion such as Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism and so on.

However, Islam is often depicted as an exception. It is sometimes portrayed as a supremely intolerant religion, a monolithic creed that is socially retrogressive and irredeemably oppressive. According to proponents of this view, Islam and human rights do indeed embody two fundamentally irreconcilable visions of the world and humanity's place in it. But this is not what the Prophet Mohammad taught or what the Koran prescribed. Although its message is universal, Islam arose as a response to a particular set of historical circumstances. In its rejection of 7th century Arabia, Islam rejected slavery, infanticide, idolatry, in-

justice, discrimination and the oppression of women and minorities. In today's language, therefore, it was a social and ethical reform movement, guaranteeing the first time basic rights and freedoms to all. The hostility that greeted the early Muslims speaks eloquently of the power of its challenge to the accepted orthodoxies. And the fact that its first converts were women and slaves — the traditionally oppressed — tells us something of its progressive, liberating message.

I believe that Islam preempted the contemporary human rights philosophy in many areas. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in 30 articles, lays out

a core minimum standard for human life, and for every article of the declaration there are analogues in the Koran, the Hadith and the Sunna. More importantly, the same belief in the fundamental value of human life is the essence of both the declaration and the Koran. The central theme of the Koran, and most Hadith, is the basic equality of mankind, deriving from the unity of our common creator. For Islam preaches above all the dignity of each and every human soul. The Prophet Mohammed is reliably reputed to have said:

"All people are equal. They are as equal as the teeth on a comb. There is no claim

of merit of an Arab over a non-Arab, or of a white over a black person, or a male over a female."

This same basic equality, this same inalienable entitlement to be free from discrimination and unlawful interference, also lies at the very heart of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

However, there is a world of difference between noble aspiration and compromised practice, although the tension between the real and the ideal is hardly confined to the world of Islam alone. When we consider the Muslim World, we cannot help but see widespread inequality

and prejudice at work and human rights violations that cry out to be rectified, usually as a product of ingrained local social mores and culture rather than any tenets of the religion which itself is often imperfectly interpreted in society.

Despite all assertions to the contrary, religion remains a powerful force in the daily lives of people, wherever they are. We should be forging a global consensus that values the beliefs and participation of all groups. Social, political and economic differences have sometimes obscured the common ground, but the task of consensus-building is now pa-

ramount. Our religious traditions, Islam included, can play a central role in securing worldwide agreement on cardinal principles such as the universality of human rights and the indivisibility of all rights.

Islam, then, is not the exception. It is a diverse and living tradition that should and, I believe, will play its part in the further development of human rights. A clear proof of its ability to do so surely lies in this remarkable exhibition of calligraphy, which so strikingly portrays the best in Islamic and Arab thought. With that in mind, I am delighted to declare the exhibition open.

Moscow motorists lack petrol, get more pumps

By Jean-Christophe Pench
Reuter

MOSCOW — "Russia is plagued by three calamities — bureaucrats, bad roads and petrol," according to Ilya Kolyerov.

The 28-year-old businessman, a portly bearded figure, admits he can do nothing to ease the pains of bureaucracy, but he does plan to make driving around Moscow much less of a nightmare.

Mr. Kolyerov's firm is one of several, including the giant Lukoil conglomerate, the plan to transform the city with a network of petrol stations, consigning to history the ubiquitous roadside queues at old Soviet-era pumps.

Western oil companies like Royal Dutch/Shell and British Petroleum also envisage building their own networks of petrol pumps, but so far they have been discouraged by bureaucra-

tic obstacles. Moscow's only foreign petrol station was opened in 1991 by a subsidiary of Italy's AGIP SPA.

The Russian capital's frustrated army of motorists has grown by more than 350,000 in the past two years and is expected to reach 1.5 million by the end of this year.

But the city of about nine million people has only 214 petrol stations, and a third of those are lying idle with broken-down pumps.

Fuel supply problems were made worse this November by technical problems at the Moscow oil refinery, forcing motorists to queue for hours.

Many prefer to fill up canisters with supplies sold directly from tankers parked beside makeshift placards advertising whatever grade of petrol is on offer.

Fuel and Energy Minister Yuri Shafarik and Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov said

last month that 55 new petrol stations would be built in Moscow soon under a special programme.

According to some estimates, Moscow needs about 400 petrol stations to meet its demand. Mr. Luzhkov said the city needed 250 modern stations, with car washes, shops, lavatories and garages for minor repairs.

Companies taking part in the race to satisfy the obviously thirsty market include Lukoil, Russia's biggest oil conglomerate.

Lukoil Vice-President Vladimir Bazhenov said that, as part of a plan by the Moscow city government, the company had been given permission to build 18 petrol stations and five or six should be working by early 1995.

"We asked for 45, but we would like to build stations that fit in with all the rules of city design for the next 20-30 years," he said.

Lukoil opened its first

Moscow petrol station, with a Western-style forecourt and facilities, in early November.

Mr. Kolyerov doesn't have the same financial muscle as Lukoil, but his company is moving fast to capture the Moscow market, which accounts for about 10 per cent of Russia's consumption of oil products.

"One has sometimes the false impression that the petrol market in Russia is just for crooks or big companies," Mr. Kolyerov said. "We have decided to enter this market for good and for long."

Since its founding two years ago, Ilya Kolyerov Co. has built 11 new petrol stations fitted with the latest Russian equipment bought in Rostov-on-the-Don and in Rostovsk, a small industrial city south of Moscow.

Mr. Kolyerov says more than 14,000 clients use his stations regularly, filling up

with high-standard petrol supplied by the Moscow refinery. Only high-octane petrol comes from Ufa, the capital of the semi-autonomous Republic of Bashkortostan.

"At the beginning, we had many more suppliers, but we have progressively eliminated those who supplied us with lower quality petrol," one company official said.

Mr. Kolyerov's plans for the near future include building an additional 200 petrol stations in the centre of Moscow and in outlying areas.

Asked about potential competitors on the petrol market, he smiled disdainfully.

"So far there is no competition, it is only beginning," he said, as if unaware of the plans of Lukoil and another big company Hermes-Moskva.

Last year, Hermes-Moskva was given a licence to build 17 petrol stations.

Sicilian Catholic priests take on Mafia

By Philip Pallella
Reuter

PALERMO, Sicily — When he was nine, Alessandro pushed doses of heroin for the Mafia on the mean streets of Palermo's Borgo Vecchio neighbourhood.

Now an older and wider 11 in a city where kids grow up fast, the boy changed his ways thanks to Father Paolo Turturro, a priest who has made it his mission to get the children before the Mafia does, or get them back if he fails the first time.

The Mafia's response to his work and that of other priests in Sicily has shown that the crime organisation may now consider the church, rather than the state, its worst enemy.

"What is the Mafia?" the 48-year-old Roman Catholic priest asked a group of neighbourhood children eating a free lunch of rice and beans in his Santa Lucia church one recent afternoon.

They answered in an ear-splitting cacophony as if responding to an arithmetic question they had been asked thousands of times: "The Mafia is death."

Pope John Paul threw his weight behind priests like Turturro when he visited Sicily this month and told mafiosi for the second time in as many years that their earthly power would not save them from God's final judgment for their crimes.

The Pope paid tribute to Giuseppe Puglisi, an anti-Mafia priest killed last year in Palermo, and vowed that the Sicilian Catholic church would not buckle to mob threats.

But during the Pope's visit, the Mafia demonstrated its power to intimidate by sending another priest a macabre warning reminiscent of the film "The Godfather" — a lamb with its throat slit and a note reading "you'll end up the same way."

Father Turturro's chess game with the mob for the souls of Sicily's children is played out in the neighbourhood around Palermo's Ucciardone prison, where many mafiosi have done time.

The priest keeps children off the streets and hopefully out of the mob's labour pool by giving them a place to play and eat after school. One of his trademarks is giving a soccer ball to any child who gives him a toy gun or a real one.

The neighbourhood's mothers, some of whose husbands are in Ucciardone prison for Mafia crimes, help with the cooking. Priests like Turturro were once a rare breed in Palermo and Sicily, where the local Roman Catholic church for years turned a blind eye to the Mafia or issued token condemnations.

Cardinal Ernesto Ruffini, Palermo's bishop from 1946 to 1967, was so bent on forging an anti-communist strategy with Sicily's Christian Democrats that he claimed the Mafia was a myth.

It became increasingly difficult for Cardinal Ruffini to defend his contention in the 1960s, when the Mafia first used car bombs in its war to control the lucrative building contracts at the start of Palermo's urban sprawl.

Today, support from the Pope and Cardinal Salvatore Pappalardo have encouraged anti-Mafia priests to speak out and often put their lives on the line.

Their straight talk has forced them to live what Italians call "an armoured life" made up of police escorts, bulletproof cars and obscene phone calls in the dead of night.

When Fr. Turturro walks the 50 metres from his church to the basketball court, one of the 12 soldiers outside readies his rifle and accompanies him.

Fr. Puglisi, who did not have an escort, was shot in the back of the neck in Palermo's rough and tumble Brancaccio neighbourhood in September 1993 as he returned home at night.

In one of the recent warnings the Mafia sent to

bourhood around Palermo's Ucciardone prison, where many mafiosi have done time.

The priest keeps children off the streets and hopefully out of the mob's labour pool by giving them a place to play and eat after school. One of his trademarks is giving a soccer ball to any child who gives him a toy gun or a real one.

The neighbourhood's mothers, some of whose husbands are in Ucciardone prison for Mafia crimes, help with the cooking. Priests like Turturro were once a rare breed in Palermo and Sicily, where the local Roman Catholic church for years turned a blind eye to the Mafia or issued token condemnations.

Cardinal Ernesto Ruffini, Palermo's bishop from 1946 to 1967, was so bent on forging an anti-communist strategy with Sicily's Christian Democrats that he claimed the Mafia was a myth.

It became increasingly difficult for Cardinal Ruffini to defend his contention in the 1960s, when the Mafia first used car bombs in its war to control the lucrative building contracts at the start of Palermo's urban sprawl.

Today, support from the Pope and Cardinal Salvatore Pappalardo have encouraged anti-Mafia priests to speak out and often put their lives on the line.

Their straight talk has forced them to live what Italians call "an armoured life" made up of police escorts, bulletproof cars and obscene phone calls in the dead of night.

When Fr. Turturro walks the 50 metres from his church to the basketball court, one of the 12 soldiers outside readies his rifle and accompanies him.

Fr. Puglisi, who did not have an escort, was shot in the back of the neck in Palermo's rough and tumble Brancaccio neighbourhood in September 1993 as he returned home at night.

In one of the recent warnings the Mafia sent to

Sicilian churchmen, a plaque commemorating Fr. Puglisi in a town near Palermo was destroyed. Church officials transferred another priest temporarily to Rome for his own protection.

"These are messages to the church and the Pope," Fr. Turturro said. "They are saying 'be careful, don't talk too much'."

Saverio Lodato, author of the new book "From the Altar Against the Mafia", said the Sicilian church has become a new barometer of anti-Mafia sentiment because it is finally free of political links.

"For 50 years the church in Sicily was at best neutral with regard to the Mafia. It closed one eye and often both. Its formal anti-Mafia pronouncements were platitudes," Mr. Lodato told Reuters.

Mr. Lodato, a leftist journalist who has written six books on the Mafia, said its ability to help deliver the vote for anti-communist parties, such as the Christian Democrats, tempered church criticism of the mob in the past.

"After the fall of communism the church finally realised that without its anti-communist element the Mafia is nothing more than the crude power of weapons and money," Mr. Lodato said.

"This finally liberated the church and allowed it to view the Mafia as just a criminal phenomenon," he said. "This has led the Mafia to see the church for the first time as its mortal enemy. This never happened before."

"This is why the Mafia's recent threats and intimidations were aimed principally at the church," Mr. Lodato said.

Father Gino Sachetti, the priest who received the lamb with its throat slit in the town of Termini Imerese during the Pope's visit, is chaplain of the town's prison and head of a drug rehabilitation centre.

He vowed to continue his work. "I am worried," he said. "But I won't leave."

Japan's mob closes in on global underworld crown

TOKYO (R) — In the battle for the leadership of the global underworld, the main players — Italy's mafiosi, China's triads, America's mob and South America's drug lords — are being pushed harder and harder by Japan's cash-rich yakuza.

In the last 25 years, Japanese crime syndicates have led an unparalleled push into Asia, Europe, North and South America, and recently into the former Soviet Union.

Stressing the importance of preserving the yakuza's centuries old ideals — giri (duty) and ninjo (humanity) — their leaders have turned a sprawling band of pumps, hit-men and drug pushers into one of the world's most sophisticated criminal organisations.

"The yakuza are one of the world's major crime syndicates without a doubt," said David Kaplan, co-author of "Yakuza", one of the few books published overseas about Japan's underworld.

Despite its global presence, little is known about the yakuza outside Japan beyond the clichés about Japanese mobsters' multi-coloured tattoos, and he fingers they lop off and present to their bosses as a mark of atonement.

"(Yakuza co-author Alec Dubro and I) have traced the yakuza around the world, across Asia and the Pacific, in Brazil, Europe — and nobody ever knew who they were," Kaplan told Reuters.

Founded some 300 years ago, the yakuza — literally trash in Japanese — had forged cast-iron ties with Japan's politicians, businessmen, judiciary and police by World War II.

Capitalising on their strength at home they began their drive overseas in earnest in the early 1970s, first targeting Korea and the Philippines, then Hawaii and California before moving in on the rest of North and South America and Europe.

"Then came along the

bubble economy (in the mid-1980s) which was the gasoline on the old fire and markedly strengthened all of the trends towards internationalisation," said Fulbright scholar Kaplan, who is in Tokyo updating his acclaimed book.

During the so-called bubble years, the yakuza borrowed heavily from Japan's then-almighty banks and put their drive overseas into top gear.

The yakuza also used cheap loans to diversify aggressively into legitimate business, including construction, real estate development and financial activities both at home and abroad.

Police estimate Japan's 90,000 yakuza now make around one trillion yen (\$10.19 billion) a year.

But one expert on the underground economy, professor Takatsugu Noto of Tokyo International University, has said total income could be as high as seven trillion yen (\$71.35 billion).

"Then came along the

In comparison, Japan's Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank, the world's largest, employs some 19,000 people and made current profits of just 37.66 billion yen (\$383.9 million) in the 1993 business year.

After the glory years of the bubble, the yakuza suffered a sharp drop in revenues, like the banks which funded their earlier expansion and the rest of corporate Japan.

"The yakuza got hit hard like everyone in Japan did by the recession," said Kaplan.

Police insist the passage of a tough anti-gang law two-and-a-half years ago also hit the yakuza hard.

The law criminalised extortion and violent debt collection, yakuza mainstays for more than 200 years.

But critics of the law insist it has pushed many yakuza into a corner and is responsible for the unparalleled rise in drug and gun smuggling and violent crime, especially against business executives, that

has caused an outcry in Japan.

Morihiro Hiragimoto, director of JSAS company, the only private firm in Japan specialising in the protection of company executives, told Reuters last month that the number of companies asking for help from JSS was up sharply.

Most of a spate of recent killings — 23 people dead in 190 shootings since January — were related to the yakuza.

Commentators now say the yakuza is likely to become more violent as it dives head first into the Russian underworld and struggle at home to grapple with the recent police crackdown and the worst recession in nearly 50 years.

"There are lots of angles: International activities, money laundering, investment overseas, various smuggling activities — drugs, women and guns," said Kaplan. "And drugs and guns are very hot now."

The talk of Awlad Al Sheik: Let there be light

By Dalia Baligh
The Associated Press

AWLAD EL SHEIK. Egypt — The flat blue and white panels atop the sand-coloured bedouin houses look totally alien in the stark landscape of this tiny desert village.

But they have catapulted its inhabitants into the 20th century. The tribal life little changed for centuries has been given a jolt — solar energy technology has brought electricity for the first time.

"It is as though we were dead and have become alive, as though we were buried under the ground and have been dug out," said Karima El Senoussi, her brightly embroidered robe contrasting with a wizened face bronzed by the scorching sun.

For the village's 450 residents, the fluorescent lights with white plastic shades mean they now stay up at night seeing friends and relatives. They talk of buying a television but have yet to realise what other changes might come. They have a battery-powered radio now.

Electrification of the western desert village 160 kilometres northwest of Cairo is part of a project that the government hopes

can be expanded to dozens of other remote villages.

Most of Egypt's 58 million inhabitants have electricity, especially along the Nile and the great river's delta, generated by power plants fueled by natural gas and by hydroelectric stations.

But the government is looking for other sources to meet the combined problems of rapidly increasing population, decreasing natural gas and petroleum resources, and rising pollution. Solar energy is on the top of the list.

"Solar energy technology has expanded tremendously, and the price of the units is becoming more affordable," said Maher Abaza, Egypt's minister of electricity and energy.

He said a study found it was cheaper to provide desert villages like Awlad El Sheik with photovoltaic cells, which transform solar rays into electricity, than linking them to the main power grid.

The use of solar energy in Egypt dates back to the 1970s when the American University in Cairo used basaltic village in the Nile delta as a prototype for fostering development through natural resources.

Salah Arafat, a physics professor at the university who helped start the project, stressed that solar energy was feasible only in rural areas with unfettered access to the sun. High rises in cities block the light.

He said money was needed to spread solar energy and recommended Egypt subsidise solar as it does conventional electricity.

"Since solar energy is the future... we should have a long-term financing system," he said.

Government officials have not said how much would be spent on solar energy. In Awlad El Sheik, which means "children of sheik," a German grant is helping finance electrification.

Twenty of the village's 40 houses got roof-top solar panels in September and the others are expected to be equipped soon. The families paid 105 pounds for each unit and were told they would have to pay more later, but the government has not said how much or when.

The long-term effect of electricity on their primitive life is still unclear. Mud brick houses replaced their tents in recent

years. But the floors are still sand, furniture is minimal — the villagers sit and sleep on handmade carpets.

With water available only from a well 4 kilometres away, the women do not dream of washing machines. And with kitchens consisting of outdoor mud-brick ovens, refrigerators and toasters are a world away.

But the 62-year-old village head, Abdul Wanees Breik, said electricity already has changed their lives.

"We used to sleep shortly after sunset," he said. "Now that we have electricity, we stay up late and visit with the neighbours who are all cousins."

The villagers are shepherds, like their forefathers. They live on the meat and milk of camels, cows and sheep. The women use wool from the animals to weave colourful carpets to supplement family incomes.

A 12-year-old named Nagwa said she enjoys playing into the night with friends under the village's eight new street lights. But, she added, "We still get up early to tend to the animals."

Banana war in Somalia

By Hugh Nevill
Agence France Presse

MOGADISHU — A vicious banana war has broken out in Somalia amid the clashes of well armed clans.

At stake, in a country with virtually no foreign businesses operating, is a substantial European Union (EU) quota which also allows a certain shortfall to be made up using cheaper and better-quality bananas from elsewhere.

The winners so far — though they are still complaining — are the growers, who have seen their prices go up from \$2.00 to \$2.70 a box — ample compensation for the four cents a box (about 12 or 13 kilograms) they pay for their banana militia.

Players are the De Nadai family from Italy and the Los Angeles-based Dole company, which on Tuesday officially launched its operations aboard a ship containing some fast-ripening bananas but with most holds empty.

In the old days, under dictator Mohammad Siad Barre, the monopoly on banana exports was held by the Somalia Fruit company,

owned by the De Nadai family, the government and the growers.

After Mr. Siad Barre was deposed in January 1991 and inter-clan fighting broke out, the company's representatives disappeared.

In 1992, the growers had no one to sell to.

Somalia Fruit returned in 1993, then fled again, returning in September of this year.

Dole, in the meantime, had arrived in the spring and snaffled the generous 270,000-tonne European Union quota awarded to Somalia as a former Italian colony.

Both companies are operating in an environment where virtually every car still running carries at least one gunman, and pick-up trucks known as "technicals" roam the streets with their occupants wielding an assortment of rifles, machine-guns, bazookas and rocket-propelled grenades, waving their guns at any vehicle they want to pass, and driving indifferently on the right, left or middle.

No government exists to which official taxes can be

paid, but both companies have made some investment in infrastructure, such as road improvement between the plantations and Mogadishu port.

The growers initially welcomed Dole with open arms, writing to Somalia Fruit last August that "we have started a new life with Dole," complaining that Somalia Fruit had withheld fertiliser and fuel, and warning that they were aware Somalia Fruit was taking steps to hinder their sales overseas.

Now, that has changed, with growers' association chairman Salal Mohammad Siad saying in an interview this week that armed Dole militias were throwing up roadblocks to stop the farmers trucking their bananas to Somalia Fruit.

"That's baloney," retorted Merhad Radseresh, the managing director of Dole's Middle East operations, who is overseeing the Somali venture. "That's what's happening to us — we're not getting our bananas through."

The growers' association chairman, who speaks fluent Italian but virtually

no English, was unable to explain clearly, in either Italian or Somali, the producers' reasons for switching allegiance a second time, but spoke darkly of an American conspiracy, and accused Dole of planning to export over-ripe bananas in a bid to destroy the Somali growers' reputations.

Mr. Radseresh, whose company has sunk about \$5 million into the operation, invited journalists to Somalia to see "the harmonious relationship between an American multinational and Somali growers and businessmen."

He said the Tropical Sun had been in port since Nov. 1 — the 10th visit by a Dole ship to Mogadishu — but that few bananas had been loaded. He said he would probably have to offload those on board now in the Middle East on the way to Europe, or even throw them away.

An arbitration panel set up by warlord General Mohammed Farah Aidede has meanwhile ruled that Dole's four-year contracts with growers will not apply after Dec. 23.

After that, it will be a free-for-all market.

Support grows for OPEC oil output freeze in 1995.

DENPASAR, Bali, Indonesia (R) — A call by Saudi Arabia, the world's largest crude oil producer, to freeze oil output through 1995 gained support within the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Saturday, but analysts said it may not be enough to push world oil prices much higher.

Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer said the kingdom wanted OPEC to keep a cap on production throughout the year to achieve "better prices."

"We want to roll over (the ceiling) for 12 months. We will try to convince our colleagues," Sheikh Nazer told reporters on his arrival here for OPEC's year-end meeting on Monday.

The price for OPEC's basket of crudes averaged \$16.97 in the week of Nov. 11, a far cry from its target of \$21 and little better in real terms than before the 1973 Arab oil embargo.

The Saudi call for a freeze on the 12-member group's current production ceiling of 24.52 million barrels per day (b/d) to the end of 1995 initially surprised some fellow OPEC members, but appeared to be gaining support.

A Venezuelan delegate said Venezuelan Energy Minister Erwin Arieta would support a 12-month rollover but preferred an indefinite extension. Qatar's oil minister also said he had no objection to a one-year freeze.

Other delegates said they needed time to review Sheikh Nazer's idea but at least two non-Gulf sources expressed support.

Nigeria's junior oil minister, Umaru Baba, said the proposal was a good one if it formed oil prices, but he wanted OPEC to review the ceiling again next June.

The backing of Iran, OPEC's second largest producer, will be key to the plan's success. Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aghazade was said by Iranian delegates to favour a three or twelve-month rollover.

OPEC is banking on healthy growth in world oil demand to push prices higher next year.

Fereidun Fesharaki, head of energy programmes at Hawaii's East-West Centre, said 1994 would be a banner year for world oil demand and next year should be much the same.

"Asia and the U.S. together will add more than



Hisham Nazer

one million b/d of demand this year and somewhere around 70 to 80 per cent of that will go to OPEC," Mr. Fesharaki told Reuters.

"There is no reason why next year we shouldn't add another one million b/d."

But Mr. Fesharaki said rising supplies from non-OPEC countries could dash OPEC's hopes for higher prices next year. "We could see another 300,000 b/d from the North Sea next year and 500,000 b/d from Colombia in the next two years."

OPEC also needs cooperation from the weather. The group hopes that robust demand in the northern winter will push prices higher, but mild weather could leave too much oil on the market in the spring, when demand is low.

Another wild card is Iraq, which has been barred from exporting oil since it invaded Kuwait in mid-1990 but has the capacity to pump as much as Iran. Though many analysts do not foresee Iraq's return to the world market until at least 1996, oil traders fear the prospect of it returning earlier and flooding supplies.

"The market has become demand led and the Saudis have recognised that," an official with a major European oil company said, adding that there was more risk of oil prices falling next year due to Iraqi crude.

Michael Rothman, senior energy futures analyst at Merrill Lynch, also said a one-year output freeze would do little to push prices above levels seen this year.

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Syria to build 60,000 b/d oil refinery

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria will build an oil refinery with a processing capacity of 60,000 barrels per day (b/d), or three million tonnes per year, oil industry sources said Saturday.

The project will increase Syria's total oil refining capacity to 300,000 b/d, or nine million tonnes per year.

Details on the financing of the project were not available but economic sources say there was a big possibility the private sector would contribute for the first time.

Syria's oil refining industry is fully owned and operated by the government.

The sources said the new refinery should be able to process Syria's heavy and light crudes and should be designed to allow later expansion.

Syria produces around 160,000 b/d of heavy crudes from its far northeast oil fields and around 420,000 b/d of light crude from its fields in the Dayr Azzawr area, close to the Iraqi border.

Syria has now two refineries in the central city of Homs, some 200 kilometres north of Damascus, and Baniyas on the Mediterranean 300 kilometres northwest of Damascus. Each has a processing capacity 120,000 b/d of crude oil.

Syria, a member of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), exports about 320,000 b/d of crude oil to the international market.

He declined to identify the

IEA sees oil upgrading profits squeezed for a year

AMSTERDAM (R) — Heavy fuel oil is likely to stay expensive for at least a year, squeezing the profits of firms that have invested heavily in upgrading plant to convert it into lighter grades, an International Energy Agency (IEA) official has said.

IEA director of oil markets, Tomihiko Taniguchi, told Reuters that an unexpected rise in light crude oil production from areas like the North Sea and from Saudi Arabia had temporarily overturned conventional assumptions about the price relationship between oil products.

Heavy fuel prices, traditionally 60-70 per cent of crude prices, are currently worth almost as much as North Sea Brent.

The spot price of heavy fuel, used to fire power stations and ships, is now around \$16.70 a barrel in Rotterdam, compared to about \$17.00 for Brent and \$20.00 for unleaded gasoline.

"The differential between heavy fuel oil and light oil products is not high enough to allow a reasonable margin for upgrading plant," Mr. Taniguchi said in an interview.

"This presents a real short-term problem to companies that have invested heavily in new plant. Of course, the normal relationship between product prices will be re-established eventually, but in the short-term, in the next year, the problem will remain," he explained.

He declined to identify the

oil companies at risk from the recent price trend but several European refiners have recently committed large sums to new upgrading projects.

Belgian major Petrofina S.A. has just opened a new \$800 million unit at its Antwerp refinery to turn most of its 60,000 barrels per day of heavy fuel oil into traditional high value products such as diesel and gasoline.

The Royal Dutch/Shell Group's Rotterdam refinery last month a two-year project to build a similar conversion plant at the cost of three billion guilders (\$1.72 billion).

Mr. Taniguchi said the new conversion capacity was coming on stream at a time when the supply of crude oil had actually become lighter.

Saudi Arabia had cut its production of heavy crude oil in favour of more expensive, lighter crudes, and British and Norwegian North Sea oilfields were pumping as never before.

As a result, the price of heavier oil products like fuel oil had been squeezed higher while light products values had fallen.

And he said the recent very hot summer had further distorted the relationship between heavy fuel oil and light oil products.

"The very hot days in summer gave an extra kick to electricity consumption this year," he said.

U.S. consumption of low sulphur fuels and Asian demand for high sulphur fuels had drained the European market of fuel oil.

WGC says gold demand driven by developing world

LONDON (R) — World-wide demand for gold continues to be driven by strong buying interest from the developing world, the World Gold Council (WGC) said.

Its quarterly publication Gold Demand Trends put 1994 third-quarter demand at 593 tonnes, up 6.2 per cent on the same period in 1993, which took the year-to-date total to 1,691 tonnes, a 6.4 per cent fall on last year.

"If this trend continues in the fourth quarter, then gold consumption world-wide for the full year 1994 would come close to the record level experienced in 1992," a WGC spokesman said.

The WGC is a non-profit organisation owned by some of the world's leading mining companies. Its survey covers 75 per cent of world-wide demand for gold.

Demand from developing markets rose 14 per cent to 364 tonnes, the first quarterly year-on-year rise in these markets since early 1993 and offsetting a four per cent drop in developed market demand of 228.7 tonnes.

Roger Murphy, general manager of the WGC economic division said the quarter's figures reflected high gold prices late last year and the increasing economic power of developing regions.

"We have seen short-term price elasticity of demand replaced by income elasticity," he told journalists after the publication of the survey.

"People have postponed purchases of gold rather than cancelled them."

Gold prices rose from a seven-year low in March last year of \$326.10 per ounce to peak of over \$400 in August, 1993. Prices then slipped to

\$340 before making a more gentle recovery.

Demand growth was strong in India, where continuing market liberalisation and economic stabilisation increased consumption by 22 per cent to 88 tonnes in the quarter, the report said.

Chinese demand jumped a massive 132 per cent to 58 tonnes but the WGC stressed this was compared to a very low 1993 quarter.

However, Middle Eastern offtake was down 13 per cent to 43 tonnes paced by economic uncertainties in Saudi Arabia which caused domestic consumption to plunge 16 per cent to 38 tonnes.

Markets in the United States, Europe and Japan also failed to match the growth seen elsewhere and overall demand in the developed markets contracted by four per cent.

Overall U.S. consumption was static at 76 tonnes, accounted for by a four-per cent increase in jewellery sales to 71 tonnes.

In Europe, gold demand was stable at 77.2 tonnes but mixed through the region.

Jewellery consumption was up two per cent to 67.2 tonnes and of the major European markets, only Germany and Italy failed to record the same or an increased level of sales, the WGC said.

Japanese demand of 76 tonnes was down 12 per cent but Mr. Murphy said the figures had to be taken against an exceptionally high figure in the third quarter 1993, which included 36 tonnes of gold minted as commemorative coins for the royal wedding.

India could cap fiscal deficit as revenue booms

NEW DELHI (R) — India, seeking budgetary stability under an economic reform programme, looks likely to meet its fiscal deficit target as tax collections are booming while government spending is stable, experts have said.

"It should be broadly in line as I have projected," Finance Minister Manmohan Singh told Reuters. Experts agreed.

"Tax collections are very encouraging. I am surprised," said Amresh Bagchi, director of the independent National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP). "It looks like the trend is genuine."

Both direct and indirect tax collections are going up as industrial production fought back from a two-year recession.

India said last week its indirect tax collections from commodity taxes and customs duties rose 17.96 per

cent to 340.24 billion rupees (\$10.8 billion) in the first seven months of the current 1994/95 (April-March) fiscal year, compared with the same period of 1993/94.

The rise was well above the 14 per cent it had targeted for the current fiscal year from the two levies, which make up 70 per cent of the government's tax revenue.

Tax collections are crucial in India's effort to get its fiscal deficit down to 6.0 of the gross domestic product (GDP) in 1994/95, well below the 7.3 per cent figure it hit in 1993/94.

The high deficit in the last fiscal year helped spur double-digit inflation that lasted from March to August this year. The wholesale price inflation which the government uses as its benchmark is now 9.4 per cent.

Direct taxes, including income tax and corporate tax which make up most of the

other 30 per cent of government revenues, are seen as being generally on track.

"Corporate taxes are doing well but income tax collections are a little sluggish," said R.S. Rathore, chairman of the direct tax office.

Commodity taxes and customs duties are levied evenly through the year at factory gates and ports, but direct tax figures show up only in the second half of the year.

Half-yearly profit figures have been encouraging, with many companies reporting rises of over 50 per cent. But actual collections will not show up until later this year, Mr. Rathore said.

"Half-yearly figures don't really help as companies inflate their figures to increase their market capitalisation," Mr. Rathore said.

But the rise in direct tax revenue had already touched 17 to 19 per cent in the first half over the same period last year, he said.

S. Korea needs 200,000 foreign workers — survey

SEOUL (R) — South Korea, which enjoys virtually full employment, needs more than 200,000 extra foreign workers to cover shortfalls in dirty, difficult and dangerous jobs, a survey has found.

The Korean Federation of Small Businesses said it based its estimate on a survey of more than 16,000 small and medium-sized companies.

The survey found the companies preferred workers from China, the Philippines and Vietnam, in that order, and most said their needs for extra labour was greatest in the final quarter of the year.

Last year the government responded to pleas from small manufacturers by announcing a plan to admit foreign migrant workers to fill jobs known locally as "3-D" — dirty, difficult and dangerous — which most Koreans shun.

About 25,000 migrants work legally in South Korea, the majority being ethnic Koreans from China, but the

justice ministry estimates more than 52,000 people work illegally.

Labour rights activists say many work long hours in often poor conditions and change their homes regularly to evade immigration investigators.

Workers from countries like the Philippines, Pakistan, Bangladesh and China come in search of wages averaging between 400,000 and 500,000 won (\$500-600) a month, far more than they could expect at home.

Most labour intensive industries in South Korea face stiff competition from other cheaper Asian producers.

But the prospect of a further influx of foreign workers is politically sensitive in racially homogeneous South Korea.

Unions and pro-labour groups oppose the importation of foreign workers, arguing it will undermine wages for unskilled workers and could lead to local unemployment.

One third of foreigners dodge taxes in China

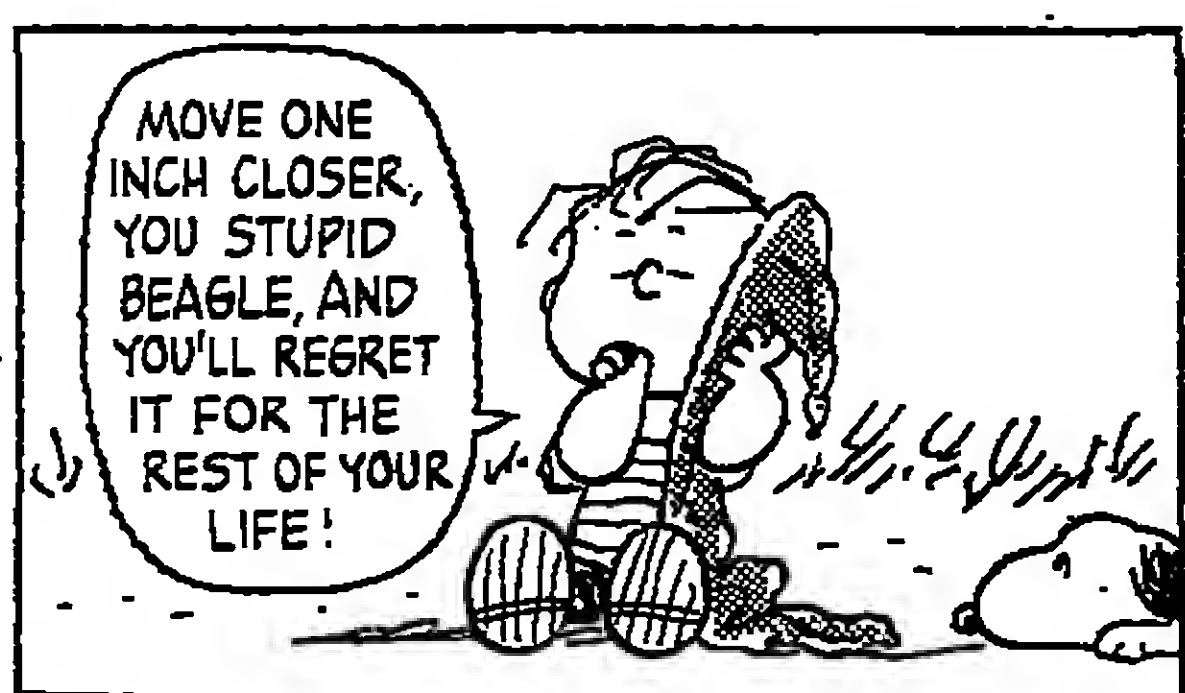
BEIJING (AFP) — Nearly one third of foreigners living in China are income tax dodgers, with the evasion costing the state some 18.06 million yuan (\$2.12 million) in lost revenue, the official China Daily has said.

Some 9,695 of 33,190 foreigners targeted in a recent nationwide investigation by tax departments had evaded taxes, the report said.

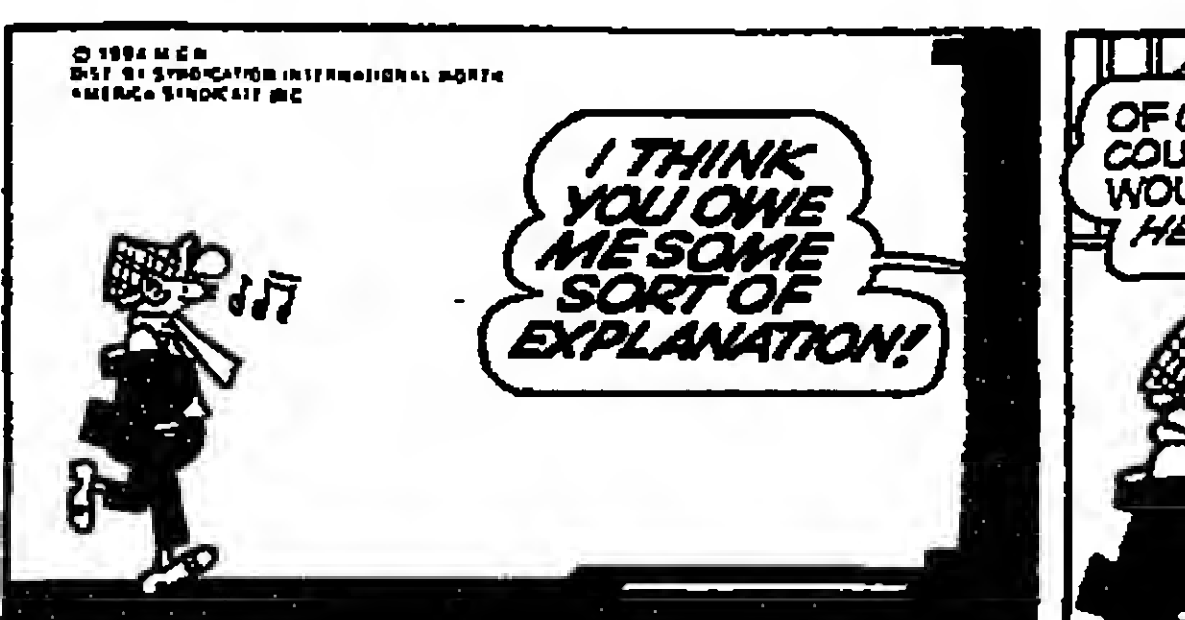
State Taxation Bureau official Su Xiaolu attributed the problem in part to some foreigners' unfamiliarity with China's tax regime, which was radically overhauled at the beginning of this year, as well as to intentional evasion.

Under the new system, foreigners are required to pay tax in nine different brackets at rates ranging from five to 45 per cent on income earned in China and, for those residing here for more than one year, on income from abroad.

Peanuts



Andy Capp

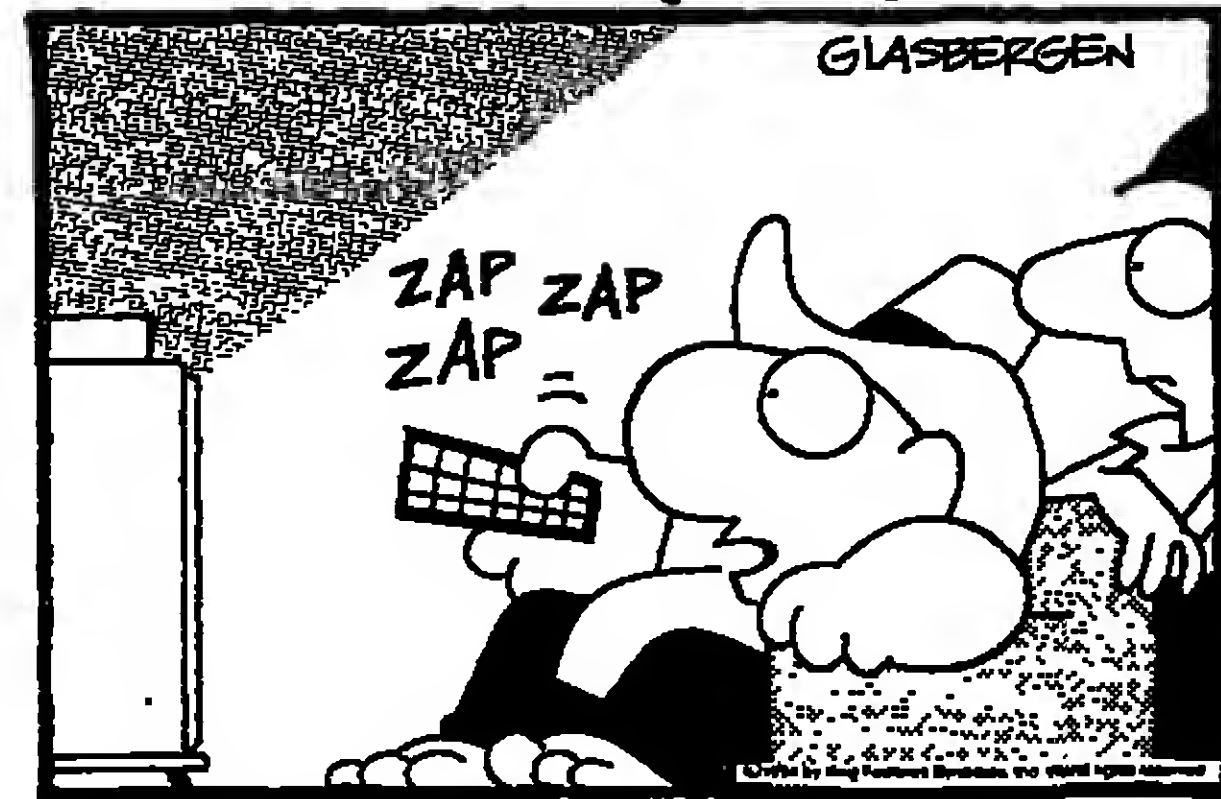


Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF

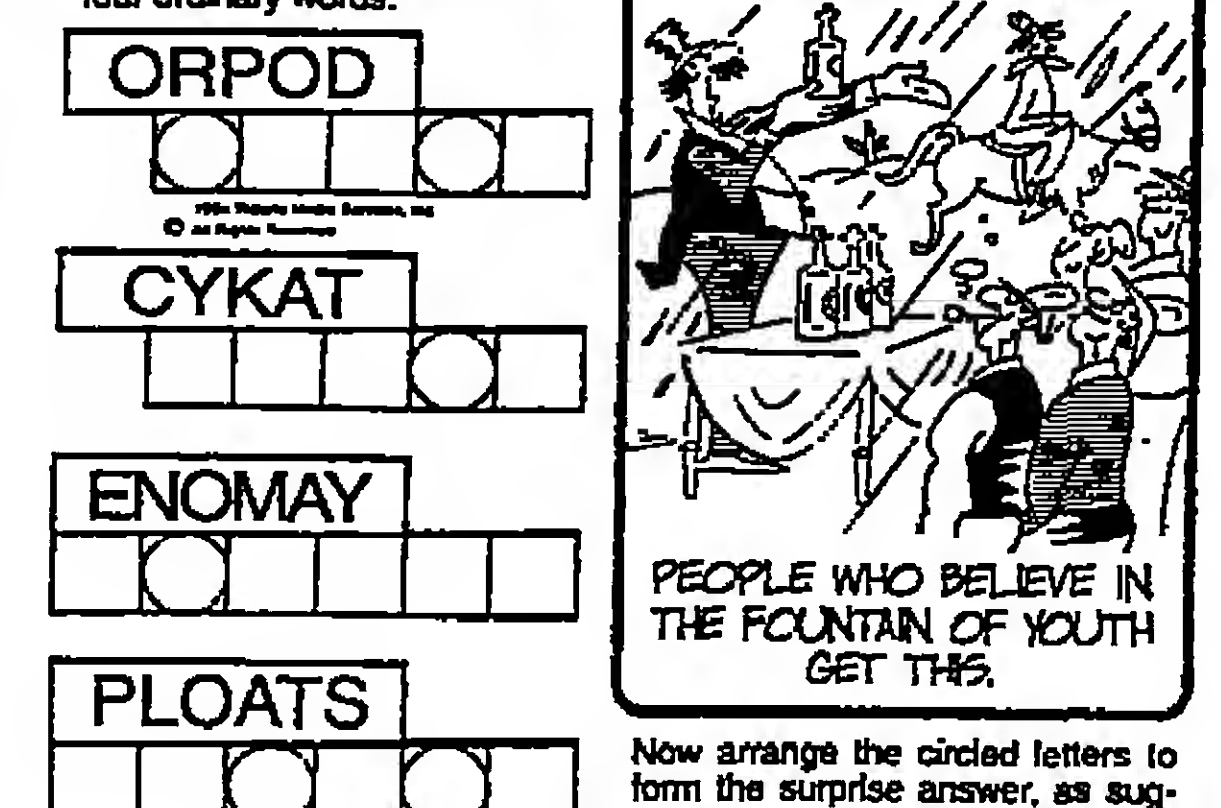
By Glasbergen



"To you, it's a channel changer. To me, it's a weapon for blasting anyone on TV who annoys me!"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Print answer here: _____

Yesterday's Jumbles: AGONY DOUBT SALSAM DRUDGE
Answer: The purse snatcher's favorite activity at a party — THE GRAB BAG

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY NOVEMBER 20, 1994
By Thomas S. Farnsworth, Astrologer, Carroll Wright Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The best day of the month with five excellent aspects should be used wisely in whatever way you decide to improve immediate conditions around you. Conduct any discussion in a charming — special location.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Private plans and arrangements to gain more success in reducing your intimate goals to a reality can be achieved today but tonight don't upset any applecart.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Get in touch with good friends who understand you very well and let them know your new plan of life and accept their assistance for success.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You now find that you have a greater awareness of what one in power expects from you so go along with that person's wishes, tonight avoid public and time-light.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get into whatever new interesting conditions arise that can be a good outlet for you to express your fondest expectations, then join a peaceful group.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is the moment for you to get into whatever obligations you have to understand them and any creditors and handle sensible, tonight don't argue with mate.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Whatever you have in Birthstone of November: Topaz-Tiger's Eye

mind concerning public expansion and a new image can be put into motion right but tonight don't make changes in routines.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A great day to get into whatever creative ideas you want to perfect or to put across, the you would be wise to avoid going out to see close companions.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Think over what your attachment most expects of you and try to carry through in as interesting a manner as you can, tonight avoid any extravagance.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Matters at home can reach a new high in efficiency and operative skill during the daytime but tonight make sure you don't force issues with anyone.

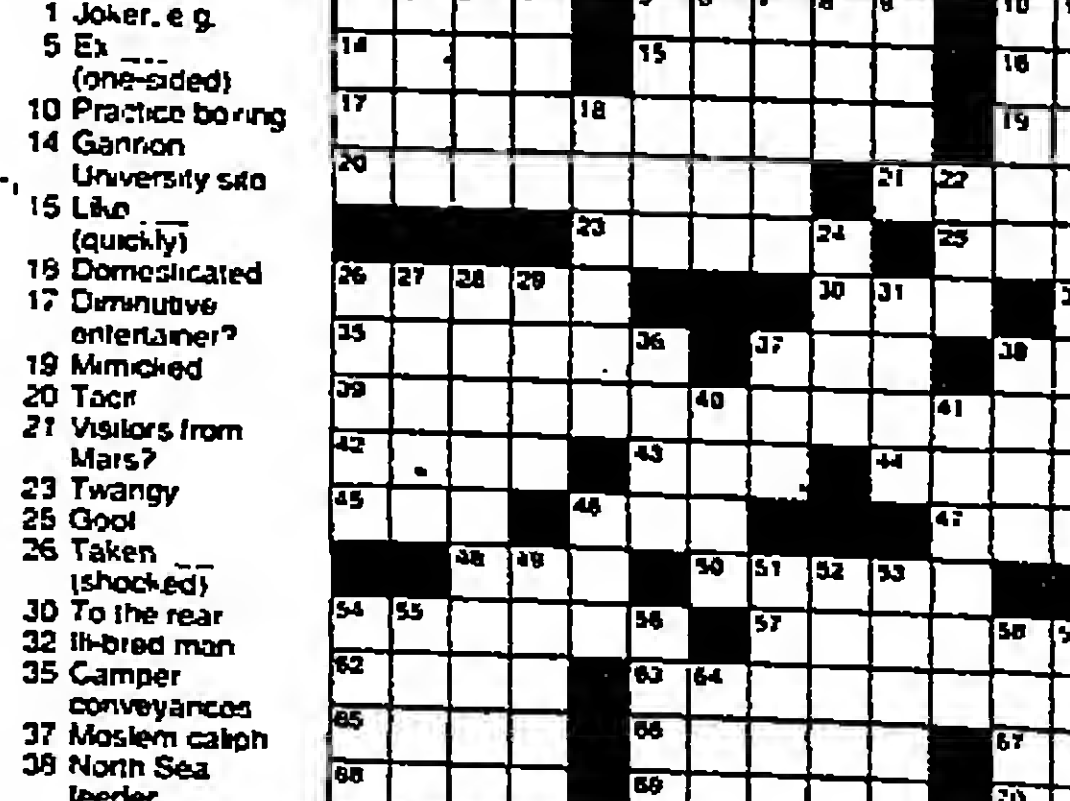
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Let those with whom you have business contact know that you are alert to modern and up to date interests but tonight don't get into any schemes.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Go after what you want today with courage and confidence and accept assistance of any good friends but tonight don't be with a harping associate.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Your own ideas and judgement are excellent, and clear with good judgement and you can rely upon them today that you are alert to modern and up to date interests but tonight don't get into any schemes.

THE Daily Crossword

by Stanley B. Whitten



ACROSS
1 Joker, e.g.
5 Ex (one-sided)
10 Practice boring
14 Gannon
15 University set
16 Like (silly)
19 Domineering
21 Diminutive
22 Entertainer
23 Memorized
24 Toor
27 Visitors from Mars?
28 Twangy
29 Dool
30 Talk (shock)
31 To the rear
32 Heated mon
35 Camper
36 conveyances
37 Modern cabin
39 North Sea leader
40 John Graham
41 Errorless
42 Consumed
43 One feature
44 Morse code
45 signal
46 Veneration
47 Type of beam
48 Slashed out of
49 Sight
50 Rocky pinhead
51 Singer James
52 Stop
53 Other supplies
54 Cornucopia
57 Trickle
58 Clump and
59 Curvature
60 Speedy national
61 native
62 Tru
63 Tired the boards
64 Believer in a
65 certain built
66 Loss of feeling
67 Duplicate
68 Locals
69 Poplar
70 Cabbagish dish
71 Expert
72 Elms
73 Pringley

DOWN
1 Phosphate island
2 Elms
3 Pringley
4 Author Bombard
6 Hows bit
7 Sent an divorce
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Hussein, Watani struggle for place in 1st division

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Al Hussein and Al Watani play their most important match Sunday as both teams struggle to hold on to their place among the Kingdom's prestigious group of the First Division Basketball Championship.

The winning team will almost avoid relegation, while the loser will be relegated unless they win with a score difference in their second round match.

Both Al Hussein and Al Watani have only scored one win each over Homentmen who are now certain to be relegated unless they defeat Al Watani and Al Hussein by a score difference in the second round.

In other matches Sunday, Al Jalil take on Al Orthodoxy and Al Ahli clash with Al Jazireh. Al Jalil, who have held fourth place in the standings for the past two years, are expected to delight Irbi fans as they 'did in their latest match against the titleholders be-

fore losing 96-69.

Scoring remained close throughout the first half and Al Ahli ended the first half with a mere 10-point win at 43-33.

Al Jalil reduced the gap to 58-51 in the second half, but Al Ahli, with a mighty lineup of players went on to score their first win under 100-point mark.

In another match, Al Jazireh who had their eyes set on second place this season, face Al Ahli at the Sports Palace.

Al Jazireh's ambitious plans were upset by former champions Al Orthodoxy 92-75 in their latest match and now seem set to be

content with third place which they clinched from Al Jalil in 1992.

Al Orthodoxy and Ahli now lead the standings with eight points and are the only unbeaten teams in the competition.

Al Orthodoxy scored their fourth win Friday defeating Al Hussein 99-38 in a match which was postponed when heavy rains closed the Amman-Irbid road.

The win moved the former champions to second place behind Al Ahli on score difference. The all-time rivals will clash in the final of the first round Nov. 23.

STANDINGS

	P	W	L	SF	SA	Pts.
Ahli	4	4	—	480	216	8
Orthodoxy	4	4	—	414	208	8
Jazireh	4	3	1	333	305	7
Jalil	4	2	2	324	301	6
Watani	4	1	3	340	467	6
Hussein	4	1	3	235	366	5
Homentmen	5	—	5	225	488	5

Buffalo Bills facing uphill struggle

By The Associated Press

THE BUFFALO BILLS, renowned for their resiliency as well as four straight Super Bowl losses, may have played themselves into a chasm from which even they can't recover.

Struggling with a .500 record, beset with injuries and coming off a short work week following a 23-10 loss to Pittsburgh Monday night, The Bills Sunday face the Green Bay Packers, winning or three straight and looking to salt away a postseason date.

And while the Bills know there's no more time for let-downs, even they don't sound too certain they can overcome their shortcoming this time around.

"I've never seen us this banged up," quarterback, Jim Kelly said. "When you

come off of a game like we had against the Steelers, and now you have to face guys like Reggie White, you're saying 'God, almighty, who's next?'"

Really, with an injured band, and backup Frank Reich, with an injured shoulder, were hurt against the Steelers, who had seven sacks. But both are probable for Sunday.

Thurman Thomas, still hobbled by a sore ankle, is expected to play, but starting defensive ends Bruce Smith (shoulder) and Phil Hansen (knee) are questionable, and receivers Don Beebe (head) and Byck Brooks (knee) are out.

"You never can count on us," Kelly said. "I know it is going to make it a lot harder when you have so many guys banged up. But I'm not going

to give up and I don't expect anybody on this team to."

Other games Sunday have Cleveland at Kansas City, Detroit at Chicago, Indianapolis at Cincinnati, Miami at Pittsburgh, San Diego at New England, Washington at Dallas, Atlanta at Denver, New Orleans at the Los Angeles Raiders, the New York Jets at Minnesota, Philadelphia at Arizona, Tampa Bay at Seattle and the Los Angeles Rams at San Francisco.

On Monday night, the New York Giants are at Houston in a game that will mark Jeff Fisher's debut as coach of the Oilers.

While most signs point to the end of an era in the AFC, Packers coach Mike Holmgren says he hasn't given up on Buffalo just yet.

"The Buffalo Bills are the same team, with the same players that have gone to the Super Bowl the last four years," he said. "Our players are under no illusions. We know the Bills are a fine football team. We're still trying to reach that level. Our guys will respect them like that."

Green Bay (6-4), like the Bills in the AFC East, is tied for second in the NFC Central. The Packers, however, would make the playoffs if the season ended before Sunday. The Bills would not.

Green Bay (6-4), like the Bills in the AFC East, is tied for second in the NFC Central. The Packers, however, would make the playoffs if the season ended before Sunday. The Bills would not.

Green Bay, however, isn't without its own injury concerns.

Sterling Sharpe, the only player in history with more than 100 catches in consecutive seasons, is slowed by a pulled hamstring.



Steffi Graf

Graf may need surgery, could miss Australian Open

FRANKFURT (AP) — Steffi Graf, the ailing top-ranked woman tennis player, may need surgery for her painful back injury and could miss the Australian Open in January, her doctor says.

Graf was beaten by Mary Pierce Thursday in the Virginia Slims Championships in New York, in what was only her second match since the U.S. Open in September.

Her doctor, Helmut Krahl, who is also the doc-

tor at the ATP Tour World Championship here, said in a statement distributed here Saturday that the injury would prevent Graf from playing or training for an unspecified time.

A "stress reaction" in the lower back was causing the pain, Krahl said. "All possibilities of therapy are being considered, including surgical steps."

"At the moment, Graf's start at the Australian Open looks doubtful," the statement said.

Gary Lineker bows out

TOKYO (Agencies) — Former England striker Gary Lineker bowed out of club soccer Saturday in the same way his international career ended two years ago in Sweden — substituted in the second half.

But this time, unlike his ignominious departure during the European Championship, he was carrying an injury.

Lineker, carrying a persistent toe injury, was unable to give the 21,000 crowd a glimpse of his famous goal-poaching skills in his farewell appearance for Nagoya Grampus Eight in the 1-0 J. League victory over Sanfrecce Hiroshima.

When the match ended all the stadium lights were turned off apart from on spotlight directed at Lineker standing on the pitch.

The audience gave him a standing ovation, chanting: "Lineker, Lineker, Lineker."

"I feel so glad that I have received such warm support since I came to Japan," he replied. "I wish I could have returned the favour on the field. But I couldn't do it, I am sorry."

Lineker was one of the

biggest foreign purchases made before the J-League was launched last year. His contract was reported to be worth 700 million yen (\$7 million).

But Lineker has been consistently sidelined by injury. He has managed just eight goals and announced in the summer that he would quit at the end of the season. Grampus, whose winning goal came from Moriyama in extra time, finished the season bottom of the table, winning only six of their 22 matches.

Brazilians Edson and Beinho both scored in second-placed Bellmare Hiratsuka's 2-1 consolation win over Verdy Kawasaki.

Verdy, the 1993 championship holders, will take on first stage winners Sanfrecce on November 26 and 30 in the championship play-off. Verdy ended the second stage with 17 wins against five defeats, followed by Bellmare with a 16-6 record.

Lineker who has served Leicester, Everton, Barcelona, Tottenham, Grampus and England in an 18-year spell, will now return to Britain to concentrate on television, radio and newspaper work.

He scored 48 goals, just one short of Bobby Charlton's England record, during an impeccable 80-match international career.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Okeke cleared of drugs charge

OSLO (AFP) — Sprinter Aham Okeke, banned for three months after failing a doping test, was cleared Friday by the Norwegian Sports Association. Okeke tested positive for pseudoephedrine last July in Stockholm but after an investigation the Norwegian Sports Association cleared him of cheating. Okeke, who was forced to miss the European Athletic Championships because of the ban, said he was given the drug by a doctor at the University of Texas, where he is studying, to treat an allergy. He said he had asked the doctor if the drug was on the banned list and he had replied no.

Motorcycling GP marred by tragedy

MACAU (AFP) — Steve Hislop of Scotland clinched his third Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix Saturday in a race marred by the death of a Japanese competitor. Three other riders were also taken to hospital in separate accidents, forcing the race to be cut short. Katsumihiro Tottori of Japan, riding a Kawasaki 750 for Motorsports Prom, was passing another rider on the inside when he hit a wall. He was pronounced dead on arrival at a Macau hospital. The three other riders are in stable condition. Racing a Yamaha 500, Hislop finished the race in 52 min 55.75 sec, almost three minutes ahead of Mike Edwards. Hislop also won last year and in 1990.

Cowboys fined for failing to report injuries

NEW YORK (AP) — National Football League commissioner Paul Tagliabue fined the Dallas Cowboys \$10,000 Friday for violating the league's policy on reporting injuries. According to the league, the defending Super Bowl champions failed to follow proper procedures last Friday after quarterback Troy Aikman injured his right thumb during practice. NFL policy requires teams to supply information on all injured players to the league office Wednesday and Thursday for release to the media.

League guidelines further explain that if additional injuries occur after Thursday, clubs are obligated to report them to their local media, the Associated Press, the network televising their game that media. The league said those procedures were not followed in the Aikman case. The injury to the starting quarterback was serious enough to require an X-ray and treatment.

Schalke defeat Dresden 4-0

FRANKFURT (AP) — FC Schalke defeated Dynamo Dresden 4-0 Friday in a 14th round Bundesliga first division soccer match. Schalke, playing at home, took the lead on a goal by Youri Mulder from 60 feet (18 metres) out in the 20th. Ten minutes later, Radoslaw Latol scored for Schalke from 47 feet (14 metres) out on a slick pass combination with Waldemar Ksenzyk, a minute into the second half. Latol scored again to make it 3-0. Schalke's midfielder Michael Bueskens then added an insurance goal at the 53rd. About 24,000 spectators watched the game in Schalke's Park Stadium. In the only other game, Cologne played visiting Hamburg SV to a 1-1 draw.

Bonaly, Candeloro win in French Trophy skating

LYON (AP) — Four-time European champion Surya Bonaly of France moved up from third to take the women's competition Friday at the

French Trophy international figure skating competition. Another French skater, Philippe Candeloro, took the men's competition, also jumping from third to first. The French Trophy is a new competition in France this year replacing the Lalique Trophy which lost its status after a feud with the French skating federation over television.

Romania, U.S. reach gymnastics world team finals

DPRT,IMD (AP) — Shannon Miller dropped out, but the United States scrapped its way into the finals of the gymnastics World Team Championships Friday by finishing second to Romania in qualifying. Romania held a narrow lead over the United States after the compulsory, then turned in another strong performance in optionals to finish first among the six teams that qualified for the finals. Romania, Olympic silver medalist in team competition, scored a combined 386,878 points, beating the United States (385,577) and China (385,527). Russia, Ukraine and Belarus also advanced to Sunday's finals. Romania was led by Gina Gogean and double Olympic gold medalist Lavinia Miloșovici, who turned in the second best all around score for individuals during Friday's routines.

U.S. to host France in Davis Cup play

ST. PETERSBURG (AP) — The United States Davis Cup team, which played all three of its 1994 matches on the road, will host a first-round match in St. Petersburg next year. USTA officials said Thursday that the U.S., which has won 30 Davis Cup titles, will play France Feb. 3-5 at the Bayfront Centre. The squad hasn't been selected, but there is a chance the team could be made up mostly of players who reside in the Tampa Bay area, including Tampa's Pete Sampras and Jared Palmer and Dade City's Jim Courier. Team captain Tom Gullikson has until Jan. 24 to name a team, other players under consideration include Andre Agassi and Michael Chang. Gullikson told the St. Petersburg Times that he's already talked to Sampras, who's ranked first in the world. The French team could include 1993 U.S. Open finalist Cedric Pioline, one-time top 10 player Guy Forget, Oliver Delaite, Arnaud Boetsch, and Fabrice Santoro. The U.S. won the 1990 Davis Cup when the final was played in St. Petersburg's Thunderdome.

Compagnoni to miss opening World Cup races

ROME (R) — Double Olympic champion Deborah Compagnoni will miss the opening races of the Alpine Skiing World Cup season because of a kidney infection. The Italian has been ruled out of the North American leg of the circuit, meaning she will miss at least seven races. The season begins in Park City, Utah next weekend with a slalom and a giant slalom. Compagnoni was discharged from a Milan hospital Saturday. Doctors have told her to rest for two to three weeks, the Italian Winter Sports Federation said in a statement.

Over 100 hurt in Bangladesh soccer violence

CHITTAGONG, Bangladesh (R) — Police Saturday fired teargas and used batons to disperse hundreds of fighting soccer fans in the southern port city of Chittagong. More than 100 people including ten policemen were injured in an hour-long battle between the supporters of Mohammedan Sporting Club and Abahani Krira Chakra, police said. They said the Mohammedan supporters stormed onto the pitch, chasing players and the referee, when their team was losing two goals to nil with only 10 minutes of play remaining. The win by Abahani would have clinched the local league.

British soccer results

LONDON (AFP) — Results of Saturday's football matches in England and Scotland:

Coveントリー 1 (Jones 62) Norwich 0
Ipswich 1 (Thomson 28) Blackburn 3 (Sutton 8, Sherwood 41, Shearer 70).

Man Utd. 3 (Irwin 8, Cantona 34, Kanchelskii 50) Crystal Palace 0.

Nottm Forest 0 Chelsea 1 (Spencer 28).
QPR 3 (Ferdinand 30, 39, Gallen 67) Leeds 2 (McDonald 55, Deane 72).

Sheff. Wed. 1 (Petrescu 28) West Ham 0.
Southampton 1 (Magilton 56) Arsenal 0.

Tottenham 3 (Sheringham 40, Klinsmann (pen) 53, 74) Aston Villa 4 (Atkinson 8, Fenton 21, 27 Saunders 87).

Wimbledon 3 (Clarke 2, Ekoku 27, Harford 36) Newcastle 2 (Beardsley, Kitson).



THE EMBASSY OF ITALY ANNOUNCES

The Starting of the following Italian classes:

1 - FIRST AND SECOND LEVEL

Will start on Monday 21/11/94

2 - THIRD AND FOURTH LEVEL

Will start on Sunday 27/11/94

3 - FIFTH LEVEL

Will start on Wednesday 30/11/94

4 - COMMERCIAL ITALIAN COURSE

Will start on Tuesday 29/11/94

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On the occasion of the Italian Armed Forces Day

the Italian Language Centre has the Honour to take this opportunity to congratulate the Military Attache Colonel Danilo NERI wishing you all the progress and success

C.L.I. Amman, 20 Nov. 94

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North-South vulnerable. South deals.
NORTH
* Q 9 5
J 8 4 2
6 3
* Q J 4
WEST
* 7 4 3
8 3
K J 8 5
* K 10 7 5
EAST
* 2
10 7 5
10 7 2
* A 9 8 6 3 2
SOUTH
* A K J 10 8 6
A Q Q
A Q 9 4
* Void

The bidding:
South West North East
2 * Pass 4 * Pass
6 * Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♠.
Here's a simple question: South, declarer at six spades, brought home the slam. Which trick did East-West collect?
The bidding has a point of interest. North's jump to game in partner's suit in response to the demand bid showed length in trumps (usually four cards), but denied a first or second-round control on the side. Nevertheless, South contracted for

slam, expecting the contract to be no worse than on a diamond finesse, realized that, if the diamond king were outside, all the tricks would be made by ruffing two diamonds in dummy. However, should the ♠-finesse lose and the defender led a second trump there was a distinct possibility the contract would fail if trump split 3-1, unless the defender with the long trump also held three hearts.
There was a way out of this impasse as long as hearts were no worse than 3-3. After winning the trump in dummy with the nine, declarer led the queen of clubs. When East put up the ace, South discarded the queen of hearts from hand. East shifted to a diamond. Spurning the finesse declarer rose with the ace of diamonds, cashed the ace of spades in case trumps were 3-2, then cleared the ace and king of hearts. After both declarer followed, the contract was assured. Declarer cued to the queen of trumps, drawing the last enemy king in the process, then ran three heart tricks to dispose of all the diamonds from the closed hand.
So the slam was made for the loss of only a club trick!

King inaugurates new building of Interior Ministry

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday inaugurated the Interior Ministry's new premises near the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) in Amman.

Accompanied by a number of Cabinet members, Parliament deputies and senior officials, the King listened to a briefing by Interior Minister Saleh Hamad about the different sections' operations and services.

"The King presented Ghassan Al Anar, a representative of the contracting company that carried out the project, with the Jordanian Independence Medal of the Third Order.

Mr. Hamad presented King Hussein with a golden replica of the Dome of the Rock and delivered an address paying tribute to the Hashemite leadership for sponsoring the occasion and pledging that the ministry's departments would exert their utmost efforts to serve Jordan and the Jordanian people.

Minister of Public Works Abdul Razzak Ensour delivered another address, noting that the inauguration ceremony coincides with the Kingdom's celebrations of the King's birthday.

He paid tribute to King Hussein's efforts for his services to the nation.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Afghans plucked from rafts in freezing Baltic

STOCKHOLM (R) — Some 36 refugees, most of them from Afghanistan, were plucked from life rafts in the Baltic Sea off Sweden on Saturday, police said. Police said all 36, including a one-year-old baby, had been adrift for up to 10 hours after being dropped off a ship that had presumably smuggled them from Russia or one of the Baltic states. Rescuing refugees from the waters off Sweden has become a common occurrence. Most refugees are from the Middle East or Asia and have paid huge amounts of money to be smuggled through Russia and into a Western country. Henrik Jacobsen, an emergency services doctor at Trelleborg, southern Sweden, near where the refugees were picked up from three life rafts, said all 36 were in good health, although some were suffering from slight hypothermia and seasickness. Temperatures in the Baltic Sea are around freezing at the moment. All the refugees are wearing light clothing that was not suited for the Scandinavian winter, Dr. Jacobsen added. The refugees had so far refused to give the name of the ship that had brought them to the Swedish coast. Ship's captains can earn large amounts of money by smuggling human cargo into Sweden.

Two dead in attacks in Egypt

CAIRO (R) — Suspected Muslim militants stormed a mosque near the southern Egyptian town of Mallawi on Saturday, killing a government employee and injuring one other man, the interior ministry said in a statement. It said three gunmen broke into Zawiyah mosque in Tanda, once run by sympathisers of the militant Al Gama'at Al Islamiyah (Islamic Group) but recently taken over by the Ministry of Religious Affairs. They opened fire, killing mosque keeper Farag Taha and injuring Atiyah Ali Atiyah before fleeing, the statement said. In a separate incident, the ministry said, police killed a Muslim militant early on Saturday after ambushing him on one of the roads leading out of Mallawi. It said Abdul Hamid Mahmoud Gad Al Karim opened fire on police after being stopped and was killed in the exchange of fire.

Polish prime minister visits UAE

ABU DHABI (AP) — Polish Prime Minister Naldermar Pawlak arrived Saturday with a high-level official and business delegation and hopes of clinching bilateral deals with the oil-rich United Arab Emirates (UAE). Mr. Pawlak, making the first visit to the Gulf Arab countries by a Polish leader, is treating the visit as a very important one; according to an official at the Polish embassy here. "There will be high-level talks with local officials and businessmen in the UAE and we hope that trade ties will be strengthened by his visit," the official told the Associated Press. Mr. Pawlak's 90-member delegation includes four ministers and will discuss both investment and trade during its three-day visit to one of the prominent members of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

London fears Pan Am movie — Libyan paper

TRIPOLI (AFP) — The British government fears that a recent movie on the Lockerbie bombing would invalidate its accusations against Libya, the official newspaper Al Shams said here Saturday. It was referring to "The Maltese Double Cross," a film challenging British and U.S. insistence that Libya alone was behind the 1988 bombing of a U.S. airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland that killed 270 people. The film suggests that Syria is behind it. "The Maltese Double Cross has filled with terror the hearts of those who want to maintain ignorance," the newspaper said, charging the U.S. and British governments with "propagating lies and falsifying the truth." The movie, a documentary allegedly made with the help of Libyan money, was withdrawn from the London Film Festival after legal advice, but shown in the House of Commons Wednesday. British relatives of Lockerbie victims who screened it have called for an inquiry into the conduct of intelligence agencies that investigated the attack. They said the movie contained evidence that the flight may have been used to carry drugs for a U.S.-backed international operation, and suggested that some people in U.S. intelligence were aware that this left a loophole for terrorists to get a bomb on board.

Russian premier leaves for Gulf

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin left here on Saturday for Saudi Arabia, the first stop on a six-day swing of Gulf states, expected to be dominated by economic affairs, ITAR-TASS news agency reported. His delegation included the deputy prime minister in charge of external economic relations, Oleg Davydov, Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, the chairman of the state committee for the military industry, Viktor Glukhikh, Energy Minister Viktor Shafarik and the deputy foreign minister in charge of Middle East affairs, Viktor Posuvalyuk. After Riyadh, the delegation will go on to Kuwait on Sunday, to the United Arab Emirates on Tuesday and to Oman on Thursday. Mr. Chernomyrdin is expected to sign trade and economic cooperation agreements with all the countries on his tour. Moscow also wants to strengthen its military cooperation with the Gulf countries in the light of a defence agreement signed with Kuwait a year ago.

Sudan airways flight catches fire before take-off

CAIRO (R) — A Sudan Airways plane with 115 people on board caught fire seconds before take-off from Cairo on Friday night but no one was hurt, airport sources said. They said flames shot out from the right wing and engine were dragged along the ground for 100 metres. The plane was taking off at 1 a.m. (2300 GMT) on a scheduled flight to Khartoum with 100 passengers and 15 crew, they said. Emergency services put out the fire and no one was hurt.

Geagea goes on trial on blast, murder charges

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Former Christian warlord Samir Geagea drew tumultuous acclaim as he went on trial Saturday, facing a possible death penalty if convicted of bombing a church or killing a political rival.

Some 1,000 black-beretted army commandos ringed the five-storey courthouse as Mr. Geagea, leader of the Lebanese Forces militia in the late stages of the 1975-1990 civil war, was brought in from prison.

The slim, balding chieftain, whose name once spelled terror across the Christian heartland, was greeted with thunderous applause at the packed courtroom. He wore blue jeans and a black leather jacket over a white sweater.

Chants of "Hakim, Hakim," Arabic for doctor, Mr. Geagea's nickname from his medicine school years, rang out for more than a minute from the 600-strong audience. Mr. Geagea, smiling, acknowledged the cheers by waving his right arms and then sat in the dock.

Some 200 supporters from Geagea's hometown in Besharri, northern Lebanon, tried to demonstrate outside the courthouse, but dispersed peacefully after troops fired in the air.

Another group following the court proceedings through loudspeakers from an adjacent room cheered and clapped until the presiding judge threatened to throw them out of the building. "This is a court of law, not a circus," Chief Justice Philip Kheirallah snapped.

The trial has been billed by the Lebanese news media as the most important in Lebanon since it gained independence from France in 1943. "I am confident he will be acquitted," Mr. Geagea's wife Strida Touk told the Associated Press. "He looks pale and has lost a bit of

weight in jail but he is generally well and his morale is sky high."

Mr. Geagea's father, Farid, 65, and his mother Mary, 58, sat sobbing at Strida's side.

Journalists and spectators were thoroughly frisked by troops before they were allowed into the courtroom. Cameras, tape recorders and anything the army deemed could be booby-trapped was banned.

Some 110 defence lawyers headed by a former central bank governor, Edmond Neim, were checked by metal detectors. They had threatened to block the trial if any of them was body-searched.

After the 2,000-page indictments were read out, the five-man tribunal adjourned the church bombing trial to Friday and that of Christian politician Dany Chamoun's murder to Dec. 2.

Mr. Geagea, 43, is accused of masterminding the church blast in the Christian-populated port city of Jounieh Feb. 27, 1994. Eleven worshippers were killed and 60 wounded.

He was charged with enlisting the help of Israel's Shin Beth secret service to plant the bomb at the Notre Dame de la Deliverance Maronite Catholic church.

The indictment said Mr. Geagea, who maintained close ties with Israel during the civil war, sought to reignite the conflict and proclaim a breakaway Christian mini-state.

Mr. Geagea also is accused of engineering the murder of Ghamoun 56, his half-German wife Ingrid Abdul Noor, and their two sons, Tarek, 7, and Julien, 5, by gunmen who broke into their house in an east Beirut suburb at dawn on Oct. 21, 1990.

Chamoun headed the right-wing National Liberal

Party, long at odds with Mr. Geagea's Lebanese Forces, which ruled most of the Christian hinterland north and northeast of Beirut during the civil war.

Mr. Geagea and Chamoun were gunning for presidency, which traditionally is held by a member of their one million-strong Maronite Catholic sect, the country's largest Christian community.

In formal terms, the indictment charges Mr. Geagea with "plotting and executing a bomb explosion that caused fatalities with the aim of creating chaos and anarchy" in connection with the church attack and first-degree murder for the Chamoun killings.

Mr. Geagea remained silent during the 7½-hour session, but he had denied the charges upon his arrest April 21, a month after his militia was outlawed by Prime Minister Rafik Hariri's government.

"I am innocent on both counts," he has said. "The government is bent on stifling opposition and for this it is ready to even accuse me of crucifying Jesus."

Mr. Geagea was the only militia chief who refused to join the post-war government. His foes all hold cabinet posts and thus their trespasses have been forgiven.

Standing trial with Mr. Geagea were four aides, including his chief of staff Fuad Malek. Fourteen others, including his top security chief Ghassan Touma, are being tried on the same charges in absentia.

Lebanon restored the death penalty for political crimes in March after the church bombing amid efforts to tighten security and legal procedures.

Present in the courtroom were Tracy Chamoun, the assassinated leader's eldest daughter.

Palestinians erupt in anger

(Continued from page 1)

Tulkarm, Israeli soldiers using live ammunition opened fire on demonstrators who blocked roads with burning tyres and hurled stones at them. The shooting wounded nine Palestinians, two fatally.

Hospital officials said Mahmoud Lutfi Kahla, 19, from the village of Artal, near Tulkarm, died of his wounds while being taken to hospital in Israel. They said Ahmad Wadat, 40, an Arab citizen of Israel, later died in Tel Aviv's Beilinson hospital.

Officials at Gaza's Ahli hospital said soldiers firing plastic bullets fatally wounded Yasser Al Zayyan, 17, in the chest on Saturday when demonstrators stormed an Israeli checkpoint for the second time since the fierce street battles on Friday.

Witnesses said four Israeli soldiers were injured by a hail of stones thrown as the troops fled to a nearby Jewish settlement for safety.

Three other Palestinians were wounded during demonstrations in the West Bank city of Hebron. The entire West Bank was shut down by a strike to mourn the casualties of the Friday violence, Palestinians said.

The army imposed curfews on both Hebron and Tulkarm, residents said.

In other major West Bank cities and towns, including Arab East Jerusalem, stores and businesses were shuttered in support of calls by Islamic groups for a day of mourning for the Gaza victims.

Israeli police detained 33 Palestinians in an East Jerusalem protest.

A Palestinian man was killed in his sleep when Israeli soldiers mistakenly fired a flare at his home in the occupied West Bank, the army and relatives said.

Relatives said a flare crushed Ghazi Ahmad Qabb's head and set fire to his house in Deir Al Ghosoun village, near the West Bank town of Tulkarm. The 30-year-old man's wife suffered some burns but his two children were rescued unharmed.

A military spokeswoman said the army suspended two commanders in connection

with the incident, expressing apologies and offering condolences and aid to the victim's family.

Gaza City streets were taken over by youths. Gunfire rattled across the city in the morning, apparently shots fired in the air in gestures of defiance. Every mosque blared out recitations from the Koran in mourning for the dead.

Witnesses said over 100 youths stormed a cinema in the city on Saturday. Militants have begun to target cinemas, video shops, cafes and other places they view as anti-Islamic.

In a private meeting with Israeli Arab leader, Mr. Arafat was seething, saying his Islamic opponents had challenged his authority again and again and must be put into place.

Grabbing a pile of anti-Arafat leaflets by Hamas, the PNA leader threw the papers on the table before him and shouted: "Read this. Hamas has been preparing for this (a showdown) for a long time. They have been waging war against me."

Despite his anger, Mr. Arafat said he was ready to resume a dialogue with Hamas about giving the group a share of power, said a Palestinian official close to the PNA chief.

Arafat adviser Ahmad Tibi and other Palestinian officials raised the possibility that some of those killed and wounded were shot by Muslim militants, not police. They said they saw hospital X-rays showing that some of the fatal bullets were of the type not used by Palestinian police.

The worst rioting in Gaza Saturday occurred near the Jewish settlement of Netzarim. Some 300 Hamas supporters advanced towards an Israeli army checkpoint near the settlement and stoned soldiers who fled into Netzarim. Rioters destroyed the checkpoint, raised a Palestinian flag there and then followed troops to Netzarim where they stoned the watchtower.

Troops fired teargas, rubber bullets and live rounds from inside, shooting the 17-year-old who later died of his wounds, Palestinian reporters said.

PNA rejects Israeli offer

(Continued from page 1)

the minister added. "They have ceaselessly provoked the Palestinian Authority and no authority, no power wherever it is, can allow such a situation," Mr. Sarid said, citing examples of "senseless wars" carried out by Arab governments such as Egypt against Islamic fundamentalists.

"Without doubt the Palestinian Authority has come to the conclusion that it had no other choice but to face up" to fundamentalists.

Hanan Ashrawi, head of the Palestinian Association of Human Rights, told Israeli Television that she feared the Jewish state would "use (this incident) for political ends."

In Amman, Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghosheh vowed to retaliate against Mr. Arafat's self-rule government.

"We are ready for this... battle, and we'll confront the self-rule authority the same way we've confronted the Zionist enemy throughout the years."

In Cairo, a leading Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official urged Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority and Islamic militants to show self-restraint and avoid further bloodshed in the newly autonomous zone.

Farouk Kaddoumi, the PLO's foreign minister and a member of its Executive Committee, also urged Palestinian police not to use firearms against crowds in Gaza and to free all detainees in their custody.

"I appeal to our Palestinian National Authority and to our policemen and our people to put an end to this tragic bloodshed in order to maintain our national unity," Mr. Kaddoumi told the Associated Press.

Mr. Kaddoumi, also secretary-general of Mr. Arafat's Fatah PLO faction, has spoken out against Israel-PLO accord that led to autonomy for Gaza and Jericho. But he has not actively opposed the accord.

He was in Cairo for discussions with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa on coordination in the Middle East peace process. Mr. Kaddoumi described Friday's violence as "sedition aimed at sabotaging the Palestinians' unity and their heroic struggle."

After meeting with Mr. Musa, Mr. Kaddoumi said the PLO was seeking Egyptian support in "advancing the Palestinian cause until the Palestinian are able to set up their independent state." He did not elaborate.

COLUMN

2 Chinese dissidents get Kennedy Prize

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Two key Chinese dissidents jailed for human rights and pro-democracy activities, Wei Jingsheng and Ren Wanding, were awarded the Robert Kennedy Human Rights Prize here Friday. "The Chinese government seems to fear most those principled activists like Ren and Wei who refuse to be silenced," said Rose Styron, chair of the award programme's judges. The award, including a \$30,000 prize, was presented by the late Kennedy's widow at a U.S. Senate office building here and was accepted on behalf of the two dissidents by Liu Qing, a former dissident and friend of Mr. Wei and Mr. Ren. Mr. Wei, formerly an electrician at the Beijing Zoo, first came to world attention during the 1978-1979 Democracy Wall movement in China when he wrote essays critical of the Chinese leadership. He was briefly freed from prison in September 1993 after serving more than 14 years in solitary confinement as Beijing was waging an international campaign to host the 2000 Olympics. Mr. Wei was detained again on April 1 this year and has been held incommunicado and without charge since, his whereabouts unknown. Mr. Ren was also a leading activist in the Democracy Wall movement and spoke out publicly on Tiananmen Square during the 1989 pro-democracy movement. As a result, he was arrested, charged with incitement and counterrevolutionary propaganda and is currently serving a seven-year prison term in Beijing No. 2 Prison, according to a statement from the Kennedy Memorial.

Auction of emperor's personal effects nets \$2m

VIENNA (AFP) — An auction of 300 personal effects from the Austrian imperial household raised some \$2 million this week in Vienna, as collectors rushed to snap up anything from Emperor Franz Josef I's underwear to his razor blade. The five-day selloff of some 300 lots brought in almost 20 million schillings, a predominantly Austrian enthusiasts fought to grab a memento of the emperor, who died in 1916. The imperial uniforms went for 10,000 schillings (\$1,000), while several of his uniforms fetched up to 10 times as much. Riding breeches were a snip at just 30,000 schillings (\$3,000). Franz Josef's woolen "Bonjour" shirt, which helped to ward off colds at Schoenbrunn Palace, went for a mere 154,000 schillings, while his spectacles and razor blade brought in a further 30,000 schillings. Handkerchiefs and a hat belonging to Empress Elisabeth ("Sissi") also found a buyer at around 30,000 schillings a piece, as did the boots of Marie Veresera, mistress of Prince Rodolphe. He and Marie committed suicide in the hunting pavilion at Mayerling. Hunting scenes and war paintings showing the emperor and painted by Austrian artists of the day went for more than 150,000 schillings, while an assortment of letters were also snapped up. Some of the missives included correspondence between Franz Josef and Katharina Von Kiss-Schrott, an actress with whom he reputedly had a relationship. The artefacts had been brought together by a private Viennese businessman who had spent a lifetime collecting them.

Baby's body sent by post

CARDIFF (AFP) — Health Department officials launched an inquiry after a newborn baby's body was sent more than 200 miles (320 kilometres) in a cardboard box for a post-mortem, a spokesman said. A stores worker discovered the body in the parcel delivered by a courier when the bottom of the small box broke open, newspapers reported Saturday. A health authority spokesman said an inquiry had been launched, and the baby's parents were receiving counselling after being told of the error. He said the baby should have been transported either by ambulance or by funeral director — at a cost of several hundred pounds.